Vote no on SB 2208.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources

I stand before you today to emphasize the vital importance of private property rights, local control, and the clear division of federal, state, and local rights within our governance structure.

Private property rights are fundamental to our societal structure, promoting personal freedom, economic growth, and responsible land management. Coupled with this, local control is essential because it allows communities to govern themselves in ways that best fit their unique circumstances, values, and future visions.

The division of rights among federal, state, and local governments, as intended by our Constitution, is designed to protect against the overreach of power and ensure that decision-making is as close to the people affected by those decisions as possible. Local municipalities are meant to handle local issues, states to manage broader regional concerns, and the federal government to address national interests. This layered governance system fosters accountability and responsiveness.

The proposed measure to penalize cities by withholding state grants for adopting ordinances that conflict with state-approved energy projects disrupts this delicate balance. It's an overstep into local governance, compelling cities to align with state agendas at the expense of local governance and autonomy. This not only undermines the rights of local governments to make decisions that reflect their community's consensus but also blurs the lines of authority, potentially leading to a scenario where local governance is merely an extension of state or federal will rather than a distinct layer of government.

By penalizing cities in this manner, we are effectively saying that local voices do not matter when they oppose state or federal initiatives, regardless of the local impact or community agreement. This approach could set a precedent where local governance is continuously held hostage to state or federal pet projects, diminishing the very essence of what local control and the division of governmental rights are meant to uphold.

We must protect the integrity of each governmental level, ensuring that local decisions are made by those most intimate with local conditions, and with the people who have the most to gain and lose from these decisions. We MUST preserve local municipalities rights to protect their property, people, and environment if needed from ill-advised taxpayer-sponsored pet projects.

This bill is loaded with “unintended consequences” and a massive power grab and centralization of power. Many times in the last 4 years, right here in North Dakota, even though a proposed bill it is good for the rights of the people, but has been shut down with the phrase, “We will lose federal funding.” This is exactly what this would do to local governments. It would keep local public servants from doing what may be right for their people under the pressure and threat of withholding taxpayer funds that they’ve grown accustomed to relying upon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Steve Nagel, DC

Bismarck, ND

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Geophysical Research Letters

Research Letter Open Access

Carbon Dioxide Migration Along Faults at the Illinois Basin—Decatur Project Revealed Using Time Shift Analysis of Seismic Monitoring Data

I. Bukar, R. Bell, A. H. Muggeridge, S. Krevor

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Key Points

- 4D seismic time shift attributes reveal previously unidentified CO_2 migration behavior where traditional amplitude attributes could not
- The CO_2 migrates from the injection interval, upwards along permeable faults and re-emerges in overlying permeable reservoir units
- This behavior has been previously theorized but not yet directly observed from a CO_2 storage site

Plain Language Summary

Large scale deployment of carbon dioxide storage in the pores of underground rocks is underway around the world to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere. It has since been theorized that sequestered carbon dioxide could migrate up faults or cracks within these underground rocks. However, this has not yet been directly observed until now. In this study, we have identified such migration at a commercial-scale demonstration project, where the sequestered carbon dioxide flows from the region of the rock it was injected into, up through these cracks and later emerges in shallower permeable regions of the rock. Previous interpretations of the data collected for monitoring this process was based on a standard analysis technique, however, a number of contributing factors including properties of the rock and data quality rendered this approach ineffective. We have successfully interpreted the carbon dioxide plumes using an alternative approach by measuring different attributes of the data. Through this work, we have provided field observations of previously theorized behaviors of carbon dioxide sequestered in underground rocks and demonstrated the effectiveness of an alternative approach to overcome challenges in the interpretation of data used for monitoring these plumes.

https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2024GL110049