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Greetings Mr. Chairman and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I am Zach Cassidy, organizer and lobbyist for DRC. We stand in support of SB 2322 which removes Common Carrier status for pipelines. We have seen Summit and other companies use common carrier status to threaten and sue landowners even before their projects are permitted. South Dakota has already denied Summit common carrier status in that state, it is time we do the same as North Dakota. Looking at the original intent for common carrier status, was meant for railroads, roads, and other projects that transferred people or goods for a fee without requiring a contract. As Summit and other carbon pipelines do enter into formal contracts with customers, they would be a private carrier.

We recommend DO PASS on this bill.