

Please note that we are in favor of SB 2209, SB 2212, SB 2228

We were called and told by Summit Carbon (with no personal names given) that we were going to have a pipeline on our land. When we told them we did not want this on our land, they said fine they would just take it by eminent domain. Period. Even Senator Hoeven feels this should be voluntary.

We bought this land several years ago as a retirement investment. We both had full time jobs off the farm as well as about 100 head of sheep, and then about 100 head of cows. We eventually sold the sheep because they were labor intensive and kept the cows. As you can imagine we did not have a lot of free time. Weekends were spent trying to catch up on all of the work we didn't get done during the working hours on our jobs. But this was OK. We were working to pay off the land for our retirement. As mother nature has her own plan, we sold the cows during the drought. At our age (67 & 68) it was not feasible for us to restock. We were able to completely pay off the land. This gave us to opportunity to rent the pastures to other younger families. Now a private company that stands to make billions of dollars tells us they are taking our land and putting a pipeline on it that will devalue any retirement funds we may have wished for. This does nothing for my neighbors except puts a dangerous element in their backyards. This company states that they are in compliance with PHMSA regulations, but what they would like to do is completely new and regulations are not, as yet, fully adequate.

We are not the only people that do not like this in our neighborhood. Six townships have passed resolutions opposing eminent domain. We are also not the only state that does not want this (see SD, IA, NE).

In the United States, eminent domain is the power of the government to take away someone's private property. But the Fifth Amendment places two strict limits on eminent domain. First, private property can be taken only for "public use," or public works projects, like roads and bridges. Second, even if a property is taken for a public use, the owner must be paid "just compensation." (Institute for justice.)

Sue & Dan McLean

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