

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2314
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, we are Larry and Cheryl Stockert, and live North of Bismarck in Burleigh County. We support Senate Bill 2314 because:

1. Carbon dioxide pipelines should not be given the right to exercise eminent domain as a common carrier. Carbon dioxide pipeline technology, which transports deadly hazardous liquid material, is in its infancy with superficial safety regulations. Large diameter carbon dioxide pipelines have not been independently and scientifically proven safe. Eminent domain would be equivalent to a private corporation playing Russian Roulette with our lives and the lives of anyone within the identified "Kill Zone". The U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is currently developing new safety regulations as existing regulations are not adequate. PHMSA stated, "The safety of the American people is paramount and we're taking action to strengthen CO₂ pipeline safety standards to better protect communities, our first responders, and our environment."
2. An 85% landowner agreement threshold is appropriate in the case of carbon dioxide pipelines. Ensuring landowner's safety and rights to their land is critical. North Dakota needs to do this right; doing it right does not mean taking our citizen's land without their consent.
3. Boards of County Commissioners in North Dakota should be given authority to enact a higher percentage of landowner's consent for common carrier easements.
4. Boards of County Commissioners in North Dakota should be notified and public hearings conducted in every county affected by any common carrier permit application for their proposed project.

Let's "do it right" for all, not just for corporations! We are asking for a YES vote on Senate Bill 2314.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Larry and Cheryl Stockert