

January 27, 2023

Good morning Chairman Patten and Senate Committee members.

My name is Stephanie Doolittle. I am a resident from District 8 and here in support of **SB2212** introduced by Senator Jeff Magrum and Rep. Prichard. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share a little bit of our story concerning Eminent Domain and Summit Carbon Solutions with you. Many of you may have heard only 1 side of the story.

My husband Bruce and I, along with our son Dillon, are 4th generation farmers from Emmons County who have been privileged to raise our family on property purchased in the 1930's. With hard work and perseverance, we have managed to provide for our family on a modest number of acres. Our goal has always been to manage our ground to the best of our ability and to be grateful to feed our family with its rewards. Every acre and every bushel are important.

Summit Carbon Solutions approached us over a year ago with their proposal for a route for their carbon pipeline. It would span the distance of nearly 2 ½ miles through our home section and some of the best producing acres in our operation. We were respectful to the land agents and let them present their offers which included a 99-year easement. We declined. The fertility and productivity of our land has always been at the forefront of our farming practices. My husband has spent the last 40 years of his life working to improve soil health and thousands of dollars have been invested to increase our yields. No dollar amount would be acceptable compensation in the reclamation of the land our family has nurtured for the last 90 years. We thought by exercising our private property rights this would be the end of our contact with Summit Carbon Solutions. Little did we know.

In July, I attended an Emmons County Commission meeting to get an update on the project and hoped to see a current map of the route. No map was available. Other landowners were also present, and we asked the Summit representatives about re-routing around our properties. Summit openly stated that eminent domain was an option they would exercise to acquire the land needed for the proposed route. We all left the meeting feeling sickened and defeated. The very next day the Executive Vice President of Summit publicly stated on local radio that their company never uses eminent domain when talking with landowners. They were on record the previous day intimidating landowners in a public meeting with eminent domain. Landowners from other counties were reporting that threats of eminent domain were being used to intimidate those who weren't receptive to Summit's proposals.

On July 13th we received a certified letter from Summit demanding access to our property for surveying purposes. If we didn't sign the voluntary consent forms, further action would be taken. At this time, we secured legal counsel to correspond with Summit. We needed to let them know we wouldn't be bullied and were serious about our stance and asked them to re-route once again.

On Sunday, August 28th while taking a much-needed break from the busy wheat harvest, we were served with papers from Summit Carbon Solutions for entry to survey forcing us into a lawsuit to defend our private property rights. Summit refuses to disclose information about what they plan to do on our property. Our legal fees are nearing \$10,000.

The monetary stress through all of this has been challenging...but nothing compared to the added stress and emotional burden that Summit Carbon Solutions has brought to our family. Valuable and precious time was taken away from our operation and our grandchildren so we could attend meetings hoping to find a way to protect our property, zoom calls with other affected landowners, appointments with our attorney, communication with our state and local officials and countless hours spent trying to learn more about how we could save our land from eminent domain. We will never get back the time that was stolen from us because of this pipeline. We didn't ask for this...we asked to be left out of the project.

Our family has paid taxes on this land since the 1930's. It's heart-breaking to see the energy drain from my husband when the phone rings with more pipeline news. I've tried to protect him by shouldering as much of the conflict as I could. Not talking about the pipeline in his presence was my method of operation...only taking calls when he was out of the house. I could see how concerned he was and how the joy in his life was being overshadowed by worry. Seeing the land that he has protected over the years being inundated with heavy equipment to accommodate the burying of a 24-inch pipe must have been on his mind. It would be devastating to our landscape and would destroy all that he, his father, his grandfather, and his son have labored so diligently to protect and preserve through the years.

What has been eye-opening to me through this whole experience is the lack of respect and the arrogance that this company has shown to the landowners and taxpayers who won't bow, who won't comply, who won't sign a 99-year easement.

This pipeline isn't for progress- it's for profit. There is no "public use" to warrant Eminent Domain. The public has nothing to gain from this project and is incurring a loss considering the 1.5 BILLION dollars annually in tax credits that Summit will pocket thanks to the American taxpayer. Summit Carbon Solutions is the big winner. How is it fair that our private property can be taken for the private gain of Summit Carbon Solutions?

As leaders in our state, protecting the rights of the citizens you represent should be your top priority. We can't give away the rights of our citizens to pacify and entice BIG business. I ask you all to consider how you would react if you were living in our nightmare. I wouldn't wish this on anyone.

I ask you to please support SB2212 and the Property Protection Bills introduced by Senator Magrum.