

As predicted, CO2 pipelines have been one of the biggest topics this legislative session. I have studied CO2 pipelines for 2 years and firmly believe we don't want this. Here is why. First, this is Washington DC forcing something on us that we don't need - and using money they don't have. The lucrative federal tax credits Congress included as part of the 2022 "Inflation Reduction Act", benefits only the wealthiest corporations - and ratchets up inflation. We have felt the inflation affect already. Building dangerous CO2 pipelines that no one needs, will only make it worse.

In South Dakota, Summit Carbon Solutions (SCS), whose investors include multi-billion-dollar foreign corporations, is spending millions. They have flooded the media saying CO2 pipelines are necessary for the success of agriculture and our economy. That is a lie. In addition to spending millions on misleading advertising, SCS has hired 13 lawyer/lobbyists who roam the halls in Pierre, bending ears, twisting arms and wining and dining many. They make our Capitol feel more like DC than SD.

Second, CO2 in a concentrated form is dangerous. It is an asphyxiant currently used to kill pigs in Sioux Falls and turkeys in Huron. Because it is heavier than air and displaces oxygen, it will kill people too. A rupture of a 24" CO2 pipeline in February 2020 sent dozens of people to the ER and hobbled emergency response. The story is chilling and includes descriptions of people lying on the ground and in cars, foaming at the mouth, or disoriented and walking around like it was "the zombie apocalypse". An internet search for CO2 and Satartia Mississippi will yield the stories you can read yourself. Even though pipeline valves were closed within 10 minutes of the rupture, isolating a 9-mile section of pipe, deadly concentrated CO2 spewed for over 4 hours, digging a frozen crater and creating a massive cloud that hugged the ground and moved far outside of the anticipated danger zone.

Now, think about where these dangerous CO2 pipelines will be. The mainline will enter from Iowa south of Sioux Falls and run northwest toward Bismarck North Dakota. It will get larger and more dangerous as it traverses the state and will cross I-29, I-90 and highways 34, 81, 14, 212, 12 and hundreds of county and township roads. In addition to inserting an unnecessary danger of a random eruption anywhere along its length, it will create a new terrorist target that will be easy to access and carry catastrophic potential.

In addition, real economic development will be hampered by these pipelines. Because of the danger they pose and the proximity many of our ethanol plants have to our towns, large swaths of land adjacent these communities will be off limits for any kind of future development.

Those promoting dangerous CO2 pipelines say it will boost corn prices. They base this on a reduced carbon index (CI) score that ethanol plants can get if they sequester CO2. This CI score is set by international bureaucrats. These same bureaucrats can change their mind and the score tomorrow if they want. It would be far better for us to promote expansion of E30 ethanol. If we did that, our cars would run more efficiently, and the sound economic principles of supply and demand would ensure higher corn prices. No bureaucrats required!

If you want to protect your family's safety, preserve your property rights, push back against inflation, and truly benefit agriculture - NOW is the time to engage. We need to pass HB1219 (denies eminent domain for CO2 pipelines) and defeat SB201. SB201 is especially bad as it would remove any local control over these dangerous CO2 pipelines. I encourage you to connect with your legislators. To do that, go to sdlegislature.gov and click on the "2024 LEGISLATORS" tab. There you will find a list of legislators and if you click on a name, you will see their contact information.

I am fighting this nonsense and asking for your help. In service to God and you.
Rep. John Mills SD District 8