

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 25, 2024

Press Conference at 2pm CT: <https://sierraclub.zoom.us/j/2155594191?omn=94087446268>

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Landowners Outraged After Iowa Utilities Board Approves Summit Carbon Pipeline Permit and Eminent Domain

Impacted landowners prepare to appeal Summit's unjust land grab

Des Moines, IA — Landowners and communities facing a potentially deadly carbon dioxide pipeline project responded with outrage to the Iowa Utilities Board's (IUB) decision to approve a permit and use of eminent domain to seize landowners property against their will for the unnecessary project.

The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) on Tuesday, June 25 issued a decision to approve a carbon pipeline permit application from Summit Carbon Solutions, and the use of eminent domain to seize property from unwilling landowners who are opposed to the potentially deadly pipeline from crossing their land.

Emma Schmit, Pipeline Fighters Director at Bold Alliance stated, "Iowans have successfully delayed this unwanted project from an out-of-touch, multibillion-dollar company for years. They have endured through petty lawsuits, acts of intimidation, and the corruption of democracy – the Board's unjust decision can hardly shake their resolve to stop this crooked scheme. The unconstitutional use of eminent domain to seize private land for the profit of a few C-suite executives will not go unchallenged. We will continue to stand strong and fight against this egregious overreach."

Sierra Club Iowa Chapter's Jess Mazour claimed, "*Today the IUB ruled against Iowans, landowners, our environment and our communities. IUB ignored critical arguments and sided with Summit in nearly every instance. This is far from over. We will appeal this decision and make our arguments in front of a fair decision maker. The fact that they released this decision while a large section of the proposed route is under water and families are dealing with losing their homes, and now their farms, is cold-hearted.*"

Impacted landowner Nancy Erikson stated, "*We will continue working to preserve our land and protect all Iowans from hazardous CO2 pipelines. We will challenge this corrupt proposal through every legal and regulatory process available. But, today's decision should be a warning to all Iowans: When we allow powerful, wealthy people to buy off our government officials, no one is safe.*"

Mary Powell, an impacted landowner from Shelby County, noted, "*It is a sad day when the vote has been cast to violate the rights of Iowans in support of corporate private gain, but we will resist this injustice until the people of Iowa are put before corporate interests.*"

The company may not begin construction in Iowa immediately, as one of the conditions the IUB placed on Summit is that the company "*shall not commence construction on any segment of pipe in Iowa until it has obtained agency approval for a route and sequestration site in North Dakota and an agency approval of a route in South Dakota.*" The Board also requires Summit

be granted approval in Minnesota before constructing 36 miles of the pipeline in Clay, Dickinson, and Emmet counties. Summit must additionally obtain approval to connect to at least one ethanol plant in Nebraska before constructing approximately 30 miles of pipeline through Plymouth and Woodbury counties.

A press conference regarding the decision will be held today, Tuesday, June 25 at 2CT:

<https://sierraclub.zoom.us/j/2155594191?omn=94087446268>

Full text of the Iowa Utilities Board decision:

https://wcc.efs.iowa.gov/cs/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&allowInterrupt=1&RevisionSelectionMethod=latest&dDocName=2147516&noSaveAs=1

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