

Tips for Writing CO2 Pipeline Letters to the Editor

Letters to your local paper are very powerful tools to get your voice heard not only to your local community, but to elected officials as well since they read the local papers to get a gauge on how the public feels about key issues.

You can also send similar letters to your church newsletter or send to your personal email list in order to spread the word.

Tips to help your letter to the editor get published:

- Start with a catchy opening and make your point clearly in the first paragraph.
- Papers have different guidelines, which are posted on their websites, but most require you to **keep your letter to 200-250 words**.
- State facts but don't overuse numbers. Letters that explain why you personally are opposed to the pipeline help the reader connect with you more than if you just cite numbers.
- Bonus points if your letter references or rebuts a recently published pro-pipeline editorial or letter. It shows the editor you're an active reader who wants to contribute to the discussion.
- Target your local paper. We provide contact info for Nebraska publications below, but you should send yours to your local paper -- wherever that is.
- A form or link to submit a letter is usually located somewhere on the letters/opinion page of your local newspaper's website.

WHERE TO SEND (NEBRASKA):

- **Omaha World-Herald:** [Submit to the "Public Pulse" letters section](http://www.omaha.com/opinion/public_pulse/submit/) (http://www.omaha.com/opinion/public_pulse/submit/)
- **Lincoln Journal Star:** [Submit a letter to the editor](https://journalstar.com/forms/online_services/letter/) (https://journalstar.com/forms/online_services/letter/)
- **Norfolk Daily News,** editor@norfolkdailynews.com
- **Daily Nebraskan (UNL)**
- **Fremont Tribune**
- **Grand Island Independent**
- **Kearney Hub**
- **Hastings Tribune,** tribune@hastingstribune.com
- **North Platte Telegraph**
- **Columbus Telegram,** jdean@columbustelegram.com
- **McCook Daily Gazette,** editor@mccookgazette.com
- **Scottsbluff Star-Herald**

EXAMPLES of No CO2 Pipeline LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

[Kossuth County Advance:](#) Power players in Iowa Senate are aiding and abetting

Bonnie Ewoldt, Milford Crawford County landowner, 2/27/24

"The Iowa legislature is considering a bill designed to combat "organized retail theft" of property from stores. Lawmakers supporting the measure said they wanted to deter looting, which has happened in some U.S. cities.," Bonnie Ewoldt writes for the Kossuth County Advance. "...We naively think such lawlessness cannot happen here - but it can - and it is. Summit Carbon Solutions has been using strong-arm tactics to take farmland for a pressurized CO2 pipeline. Meanwhile, power players in the Iowa Senate, Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver and Senate Commerce Committee Chair Waylon Brown, block all attempts at legislative intervention... "Landowners' testimony at the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) hearing is filled with tales of unrelenting phone calls and visits to homes and workplaces. The agents told landowners that neighbors had signed when they had not. They frightened the elderly, like my ninety-year-old brother, by telling them they 'get their land one way or another." Summit also downplayed safety concerns, telling us the gas was harmless - the same stuff that puts bubbles in our pop. Two years later, at the IUB hearing, the gas had become so dangerous that Summit refused to release its plume study because the pressurized CO2 pipeline is a national security risk... "Unlike the retail theft bill that has leadership support, most pipeline bills die because they did not move out of committee - or even get a hearing in subcommittee. It is rumored that party leaders told the GOP caucus that no bills relating to CO2 pipeline would make it to the floor... "Power players in the Iowa Senate are aiding and abetting this criminal activity... "State Senators must take courage and stand up to Whitver and Brown's orders to stand down. Eminent domain reform and CO2 pipeline bills deserve a committee hearing, floor debate, and passage into law."

Lakes News Shopper: To the Editor

Meghan Sloma, 4th generation Sioux County landowner, Arnolds Park, 2/27/24

"And the beat goes on for those of us along the route of the CO2 pipeline proposed by Summit Carbon Solutions," Meghan Sloma writes for the Lakes News Shopper. "It's been around two years since most of us first heard about the project. Many aspects of the project are very concerning and we have received little to no information to allay our fears. We continue to meet with local government officials with the hopes of getting sensible setback distances from the pipeline established. Homes, schools, hospitals, nursing homes and the like will find themselves in danger if this is not done. Quite simply, if a rupture happens it will be impossible for these vulnerable populations to have a chance of survival without the right setbacks in place. Landowners and supporters continue to lobby state government officials to put guardrails on the use of eminent domain... "The number of affected landowners grew exponentially when twelve POET ethanol plants agreed to sign up to be on Summit's pipeline... Sadly, many landowners and neighbors are unaware that they are on the route of the newly expanded project. The Iowa Utilities Board is currently considering whether or not to grant Summit's permit to construct the project. It no longer seems appropriate for them to consider the application before them as it no longer encompasses Summit's full vision for the project. IUB proceedings should be paused and no permit granted until this is examined further. Landowners have stayed committed to protecting their land from this project for so long because they understand that the web of issues that surround it will have a huge impact on the physical and legal landscape of Iowa for years to come - for better or worse."

The Iowa Standard: Who, what are Senators, Gov. Reynolds afraid of on protecting private property rights

Kathy Stockdale, 2/26/24

"As a Summit Exhibit H landowner we have heard over and over again from Summit, Senate Leadership and Governor Reynolds that: "It isn't fair to change the rules in the middle of the game." I wish this applied

to us as landowners who have had our lives in turmoil since we heard we were to be affected by a Hazardous CO2 pipeline,” Kathy Stockdale writes for The Iowa Standard. “We had not planned on having to defend our farms from a Privately owned company with foreign investors. We had not planned on spending countless hours talking to and writing letters to Legislators, only to have it fall on deaf ears. We had not planned on having to pay lawyer fees to help us protect our property rights. We had not counted on all of the sleepless nights and stress. We had not expected all of the harassing phone calls from land agents trying to bully us into signing an easement. We had not expected Security guards coming with survey crews, who carried no form of identification with them, even after telling Summit they could not survey until they brought an injunction We did not plan on Summit threatening to sue our counties, if they tried to write ordinances to protect the landowners in their counties... “WE DID NOT EXPECT THAT OUR SENATE LEADERSHIP AND OUR GOVERNOR WOULD NOT DEFEND US AS LANDOWNERS AND OUR PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS WHEN IT IS IN OUR REPUBLICAN PLATFORM AND WHAT YOU HAVE DEFENDED IN THE PAST. We do not understand how a political donor and his private company can hold so much power over our Governor and our Senate leadership. This reminds me of the bully on a playground. Or much like David and Goliath in the Bible. It is time to take a stand against the bully and stand up for landowners and private property rights. What and who are you afraid of?”

Dakota Scout: Ethanol industry will survive without pipeline

Dennis and Carol Kapperman, Minnehaha County, 2/24/24

“Have the symptoms of carbon dioxide (CO2) exposure already reached the people of South Dakota?,” Dennis and Carol Kapperman write for the Dakota Scout. “...So why the debate on the CO2 pipeline? It all started with the U.S. Department of Energy offering billions of government tax dollars for carbon reduction intended for lowering the CO2 content in the earth’s atmosphere by cleaning up the pollutants from large fossil fuel-burning refineries. The ethanol industry did not create such a scheme. It has always been profitable, and will continue to be profitable, and is the least CO2 producing fuel currently in the business... “Along comes the proponents who work on ways to fleece the government programs with their idealistic offering of immediate riches, only with the intent of fattening their own wallets... “Last but not least, the use of Eminent Domain to consume private property with no regards to South Dakota property owners and local governments, the environment or its natural resources along the projected pipeline path. We sit through meeting after meeting and listened to those pushing for this CO2 pipeline, hearing how their rights are being obstructed. Meanwhile they are taking away our property rights as individuals who oppose eminent domain. Our elected officials say they cannot change rules in the middle of the game. What game? This is individuals’ livelihood we are talking about. Nothing in this project is set in stone, no permits have been filed, no pipe has been placed in the ground and no safety precautions have been put in place. Nothing... “The taking of private property by private companies for private financial gain does not qualify. CO2 is not an energy product. CO2 is not something every individual can use daily, as is water, electricity, highways, oil, parks, schools, etc. We are asking for a level playing field in not allowing the use of eminent domain that takes away our property rights.”

Dakota Scout: Baseball stadium gift from pipeline company would be monumental reminder

Peggy Hoogestraat, Chancellor, S.D., 2/12/24

“Township Supervisors, Turner County Commissioners, Minnehaha County Commissioners and state Legislators, thank you for your sacrificial time and efforts in so many areas,” Peggy Hoogestraat writes for the Dakota Scout. “...My husband and I take our corn to Poet near our home, and we purchase ethanol blended gasoline. I don’t have millions of dollars to purchase large advertisements for my thoughts, nor can I give you a donation for a baseball stadium, but I would like to share just a small part of my experience with an oil pipeline that crosses my Minnehaha County property... “However, in 2016, an oil

pipeline was built on my property. I can no longer build on that land. Even if I wanted to build just off the easement area, I would not because of the threat of a leak... "Now I would like you to imagine this happening to property owners across the state as a carbon pipeline comes through. Developments, building, and expansions by private property owners will be halted. Those increased taxes will never happen. Temporary income from a private company will eventually end. Expenses for the townships, counties and state will continue. And if your town is worthy, according to the pipeline company, you may get a new baseball stadium, which will only be a monument reminding the local folks of the damaged field drain tiles, livestock damages, soil issues, damaged roads, fear of a possible leak, affected physical and mental health, and so much more. Please also consider the amount of water and electricity that a carbon pipeline would require... "Please say no to legislation or decisions that favor out-of-state investors wanting to build a carbon pipeline. Please say yes to protect our South Dakota citizens. The ethanol plants will do fine without the pipelines."

[South Dakota Searchlight](#): Oil pipeline experience proves need for caution with carbon pipelines
Peggy Hoogestraat, 2/7/24

"My husband and I take our corn to Poet near our home, and we purchase ethanol-blended gasoline. I don't have millions of dollars to purchase large advertisements for my thoughts, but I would like to share just a small part of my experience with the Dakota Access Pipeline for crude oil that crosses my Minnehaha County property," Peggy Hoogestraat writes for South Dakota Searchlight. "...However, in 2016, an oil pipeline was built on my property. I can no longer build on that land. Even if I wanted to build just off the easement area, I would not because of the threat of a leak. The oil company has already had to do a maintenance dig on my property only to find oil on the outside of the pipe before repairs were completed. The leaked oil remains in the ground. Please note that the oil company is taxed on the pipe in the ground but as the pipe depreciates, the tax gets less. Now I would like you to imagine this happening to property owners across the state if a carbon dioxide pipeline comes through... "And if your town is worthy, according to pipeline companies such as Dakota Access, you may get a new baseball stadium, which will only be a monument reminding the local folks of the damaged field drain tiles, livestock damages, soil issues, damaged roads, fear of a possible leak, affected physical and mental health, and so much more. Please also consider the amount of water and electricity that a carbon pipeline would require. As government officials make decisions for the taxpayers and citizens of their township, county and state, they should do their own homework. And remember that South Dakota is a great state to live in. Let's keep it that way."

[The Courier](#): Tell your legislators: Say no to CO2 pipeline plan
Kathy Carter, Rockford, 2/3/24

"Iowa landowners: Are you ready for a dangerous CO2 pipeline to go through your land, through your backyard, across the fence line from you (your home, your school, your business, your hospital), near your community?," Kathy Carter writes for The Courier. "Summit Carbon Solutions is attempting to expand its range. Recently POET signed a partnership: Those sites would extend Summit's footprint into at least seven new counties in Iowa, but the precise routes of those extensions are not yet clear. "The company could not immediately provide an estimate of how many additional miles of pipe will be required. The new locations are near Arthur, Ashton, Coon Rapids, Corning, Emmetsburg, Fairbank, Gowrie, Hanlontown, Iowa Falls, Jewell, Menlo and Shell Rock." For those of you who said "it's not happening here" or "I'm glad it's you and not me," well ... Even if you don't care about the pipeline and the huge dangers of CO2 at 2100 psi, do you care about having water in the future? Each of these facilities will require huge amounts of additional water from Iowa's water sources. Huge, as in billions of gallons of water each year. Wake up, Iowans. Tell your legislators no."

Farm News: Counties are duty-bound to exercise local control of CO2 pipeline setbacks

Bonnie Ewoldt, 1/26/24

“As 2023 ended, CO2 pipelines topped the list of newsworthy items in Iowa. Heading into 2024, County Boards bear a heavy responsibility as they deal with pipeline ordinances while the state awaits the IUB’s decision on Summit’s permit application,” Bonnie Ewoldt writes for Farm News. “Summit likes to tout the fact that there are currently 2.6 million miles of pipeline in the United States, overlooking the inconvenient detail that only 5,300 of those miles carry CO2 in a hazardous supercritical state. No company has ever attempted a pressurized CO2 pipeline on the scale of Summit’s massive 2,000-mile route through populated areas... “At the first informational meeting in October 2021, Summit execs claimed a break would be inconsequential because the CO2 was just a “harmless gas that dissipates.” “It puts bubbles in your pop.” As landowners became more informed of the dangers and less willing to sign easements, the company’s tone shifted. Summit began to acknowledge the risk. By the time Summit testified before the IUB last fall (two years later), the CO2 had evolved into a substance so dangerous that it is a national security risk. Citing the possibility of a terrorism threat, Summit refused to share its plume dispersion model, and did so only under pressure from landowner attorneys — and then only in closed session. The public has not seen Summit’s plume model... “In September, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) sent a letter to CO2 pipeline CEOs informing them that the “... responsibility of siting new carbon dioxide pipelines rests largely with the individual states and countie ...” Furthermore, “Local governments have traditionally exercised board powers to regulate land use, including setback distances and property development that includes development in the vicinity of pipelines.” Local control is paramount in the face of unbridled corporate power. Summit plays fast and loose with the facts. County Boards must exercise due diligence. They are duty-bound to protect their communities. Board members need to research CO2 pipeline safety and pass ordinances with safer setbacks as soon as possible. The IUB’s decision on Summit’s permit is imminent.”

The Globe: Letter: Writer urges call for action on Summit’s Midwest Express Pipeline

Wade Mathiowetz, Wabasso, 1/28/24

“As a lifelong resident and landowner in Redwood County, I, Wade Mathiowetz, am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed Summit’s Midwest Express Carbon Pipeline,” Wade Mathiowetz writes for The Globe. “This project, which is planned to traverse our county and adjacent areas, raises significant issues regarding water safety and the overall well-being of our community. One of the most pressing issues is the considerable amount of water required for the carbon capture process. The potential for concentrated CO2 to acidify our water sources is not a hypothetical risk; it is a real and immediate danger. This pipeline, operating under pressures three times that of standard natural gas lines, presents unique and serious challenges that cannot be overlooked. For too long, I have remained silent, but I have come to realize that silence is not an option when the stakes are this high. This realization compels me to urge my fellow citizens of Redwood County and the surrounding areas to take a stand. We must demand that our Redwood County Commissioners address these issues transparently and initiate community-wide discussions. It is essential that residents are fully informed and actively involved in this conversation. The participation of our Commissioners in the upcoming comment sessions for Wilkin and Ottertail counties is of utmost importance. Their involvement will significantly influence the discourse surrounding the project and its broader implications. Inaction or silence on our part might be misinterpreted as consent. It is crucial that our elected representatives articulate our concerns, ensuring that any decisions made are in the best interests of our community. The potential environmental and resource impacts of this project necessitate our collective voice and decisive action... “I also urge all citizens to actively participate by commenting on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the

pipeline. Your concerns are important, and the state of Minnesota needs to hear from you. Comments will be accepted through Feb. 23, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. Please include the docket number (22-422) in all communications.”

[Grand Forks Herald](#): Summit Carbon Solutions' proposal raises concerns

Gaylynn Becker, 1/6/24

“If Red Trail or Blue Flint want to capture and bury their CO2 emissions largely on site to access low carbon markets and federal funding – good for them. However, certain approaches taken by companies, such as Summit Carbon Solutions, have raised valid concerns,” Gaylynn Becker writes for the Grand Forks Herald. “...This proximity to populated areas raises significant safety concerns, given the potential risks associated with CO2 pipelines. Communities and the environment face potential hazards from leaks or ruptures, as evidenced by the unfortunate incident in Satartia, Mississippi, which serves as a cautionary tale for future CO2 projects: “A pipeline rupture in Satartia, Mississippi has lessons for future CO2 projects,” a story found on NPR. Furthermore, the proposed pipeline route near Bismarck has triggered major concerns regarding its impact on property values and the general well-being of residents... “Moreover, the utilization of eminent domain to push through projects that stand to profit from substantial federal tax credits should prompt national concern. Even more concerning is that before Summit’s permit was denied in South Dakota, the company sued over 150 landowners for eminent domain. The fact that a company would file eminent domain lawsuits before receiving a permit should give everyone great pause. Ethanol plants exploring carbon capture technologies should focus on on-site solutions that reduce emissions without posing risks to nearby populations. Public safety, property values, and property rights should not be compromised for projects that benefit from billions in federal tax credits. Carbon capture isn’t the problem; Summit Carbon Solutions is.”

[Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan](#): The Pipeline Topic

Bruce Burkhart, Dell Rapids, 1/4/24

“Let’s not talk about the pipeline! I have farmed my entire life. I am in my sixties. Our five children are fully launched, one of which is farming with us. I have never written a letter to the editor in my life. This topic, however, is worthy of every landowner and homeowner’s attention to listen up. Your property owner’s rights are at stake,” Bruce Burkhart writes for the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan. “My grandparents and parents worked this land hard for decades to create a special legacy for our family. And now, one corporation in one fell swoop, is going to take our rights away. I believe it is my duty to protect the rights of my family and our farm. Not only are property rights at stake, but local government authority is being questioned. If a township or a small town or a county passes an ordinance that has authority in South Dakota. It seems to me the companies backing these projects, some of which are foreign-backed and not a friend of the USA, want to run roughshod over local governments. They use intimidation and fear to get their way. And when I say “their way” I mean get our government dollars for their private gain. If eminent domain is used to accomplish this, that’s wrong. Let’s not talk about the pipeline, instead let’s talk about what that topic has revealed. It shows me there are people, entities, and businesses that want to get control of just enough property rights to get what they want at an extremely low cost. If you don’t sign an easement they want to take your property rights by eminent domain.”

[Quad City Times](#): Letter: We all should oppose CO2 pipeline

Larry Hodgden, Tipton, 12/13/23

“The Pipeline meeting in the Cedar County courthouse basement on Dec. 7 was an eye-opening experience. It was clear that the landowners, mostly farmers, were not interested in having a

high-pressure CO2 pipeline on, or anywhere near their property. I totally agree with them, and I don't have any property near the proposed pipeline," Larry Hodgden writes for the Quad City Times. "What I find interesting is that these farmers, most of whom vote Republican, find themselves at odds with Gov. Reynolds, the Republican appointed Iowa Utilities Board and Republican appointed judges. While the GOP Iowa House passed a bill to bar, or at least limit eminent domain to protect landowner's rights, the Republican Iowa Senate would not take it up and pass it. All you need to do is follow the money and you'll find out what is driving the governor and her deep-pocket supporters to keep pushing for this pipeline. There are millions of dollars to be made by investors and construction companies, not to mention the billions at stake for the pipeline companies. Farmers, like the CO2 in the pipeline, are under high pressure to sign. DON'T. The Sierra Club, America's premier conservation group, is united with farmers in opposition. In addition to the infringement on property rights, the damage to farmland and disruption of farming, there is a major health and safety concern with a high-pressure pipeline. We should all be united in opposition to this unnecessary pipeline and be looking for better methods to use and reduce CO2."