

Lawrence, Christopher

From: Jessica Wiskus [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 6:08 PM
To: SEAB
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please allow me to speak at meeting

Dear Members of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board,

I am something of an ordinary person, a resident of Iowa. I am not working for any particular political or environmental group, but, as a neighbor, I have formed my own group...

Last November, I received paperwork from a corporation called Navigator CO2 Ventures, informing me that they intend to put a CO2 pipeline through my land. Being a researcher by trade, I invested a great deal of time into learning what this project was all about. Then, I began knocking on my neighbors' doors, and I organized a public meeting in our local community center. Over 100 neighbors attended the meeting and, at their urging, I made a video of my presentation and posted it on YouTube ("Against Navigator Pipeline"). The video, as it turns out, has been very helpful for people all across the Midwest. We are now about 1800 strong—1800 people who have the following concerns:

- 1. We are concerned about safety.** We know, thanks to the research of Det Norske Veritas, that an 8-inch pipeline rupture releases 136 ton of CO2—with a plume spreading 1,312 feet—in less than 4 minutes. We know that concentrations of CO2 cause dizziness, loss of consciousness, convulsions, coma, and death. Many of our houses are within a quarter of a mile (1,312 feet) of the pipeline route because Phmsa does not regulate the siting of pipelines. The pipeline route goes through school districts and past ballfields, churches, nursing homes, and small towns.
- 2. We are concerned about the land.** In Iowa, we feed the world by caring for our soils and tending to our farms. We know that pipeline installation ruins the soil structure, resulting in compaction, poor drainage, mixing of topsoils and subsoils, and poor fertility. (See the ISU study of the effects of the Dakota Access Pipeline.) This is not just about farmers' bottom lines. Farming is a vocation. As one neighbor told me, "It's not like the land is a part of me. It's like I am a part of the land." Certainly, the soils in Iowa are some of the best in the world, and protecting the gifts of Mother Nature (e.g. soil) are essential to our food security in the future.
- 3. We know that these CO2 pipelines are not green, nor are they necessary.** Over 90% of CO2 captured today is used for Enhanced Oil Recovery, which is *net CO2 additive* (no matter what funny math the oil and gas industry tries to put forward). The pipeline projects in Iowa lead directly to depleted oil and gas fields in North Dakota and Illinois, and industry representatives have never denied that the CO2 would be used for this purpose. We know very well that CO2 generated from ethanol is "pure" and therefore inexpensive to transport in liquid (dense-phase) form. We know that the oil and gas industry has been crying out for decades for a reliable source of CO2 from ethanol. And we know, per a report from ADM itself, that capturing the CO2 from corn fermentation does not even begin to address the real carbon footprint of ethanol, which is generated from the coal used to produce electricity. All that these pipeline projects would do would be to give a "get out of jail free" pass to the fossil fuel industry.

I am an academic by training and a farmer's daughter by birth. We in Iowa who have lived here and farmed here for generations try our best to live good and simple lives. But, when our neighbors need us, we stand up for them. Now is a time when Iowans who are learning about these CO2 pipeline plans are standing up and speaking out.

I would please ask that you consider granting me an opportunity to speak at your public comment session on Tuesday, January 25. I am not an "official" voice, but I have come to be the voice of hundreds and hundreds of neighbors who oppose these pipelines. You know that our state has become the center of CO2 infrastructure plans. Please, give us, the people, a chance to speak.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jessica Wiskus

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