

MEMO TO: Sierra Club Group  
FROM: Ed Sibley  
Re: Carbon Dioxide Pipeline Meeting, November 30, 2021  
DATE: December 5, 2021

### Thoughts and Impressions on the Carbon Dioxide Pipeline Meeting.

I attended the meeting in the Sioux City Convention Center and was surprised at the number of people who were there. (75 + or -) However, I found out during the meeting that there was a significant difference between what I was there for and what everybody else was there for.

I attended to get some information on what the pipeline was going to do to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide that was being released into the atmosphere from the ethanol plants and the fertilizer manufacturers in this region. Because of the significant effect that carbon dioxide has on global warming, I figured that here was a company (Navigator Heartland Greenway LLC) that had a very interesting idea to prevent carbon dioxide from getting into the atmosphere. And, the presenters did emphasize that the whole idea was to capture carbon dioxide emissions from these plants, compress the emissions into a liquid and transport the liquid to an area in Illinois that could have the liquid pumped into very deep wells that would then absorb the gas and over time chemically convert it to rock. They had figured out how to make money doing it and I thought it was a rather clever idea.

What I did not realize was that the vast majority of the attendees were not there for the environmental information. They were there as owners of farm land and they were seriously opposed to any and all efforts of anyone to cross their land for any purpose such as a pipeline. The hostility was hidden, but from the questions asked and the lack of any appropriate response to the answers from the company representatives, it was very clear that the whole attitude from the attendees was one of distrust. It came down to “no one is going to trespass on my land,” and the “possible pipeline rupture is too risky for us farm folk.” There was very little interest in the capture of carbon dioxide emissions and what interest there was seemed to be “if we plant more corn or beans that would take care of the problem.”

This brief experience opened my eyes to the massive difficulty we environmentalists face in the rural areas when we are attempting to get the global warming message across to people who do not and will not accept it or even countenance it. It is not a matter of education, because that one word assumes that the student is openly willing to listen to a different viewpoint.

It was an experience that told me that the message we know to be true (global warming is real and dangerous to us) is being rejected out of hand because it will adversely impact their operations and no one is going to interfere with what they are doing.

And after one and one half hours of listening to their side, I decided that I had other things to do and left the meeting.