Tell your legislators, "No eminent domain for hazardous liquid pipelines" and how to answer their concerns

Contact both your state representative and your state senator and ask that they support legislation to prohibit the use of eminent domain for hazardous liquid pipelines, such as the carbon dioxide pipelines being proposed across the state. These pipelines are developed and owned by private companies and they do not have a public use or public benefit so they should not be allowed the right of eminent domain under any circumstances.

We are hearing excuses from legislators. You should tell them the truth.

- “This isn’t the right time because we shouldn’t change the law when there are two pending projects in the state.” But this is exactly the right time for the legislators to take action. That is what we elected them to do. There is an immediate threat to Iowans and our laws are not strong enough to protect them. It is exactly the right time!
- “Changing the rules on the use of eminent domain would send the wrong message to supporters.” What supporters? Landowner don’t want this, County Boards of Supervisors don’t want this; environmentalists don’t want this. The pipeline companies want this. The legislators need to send a strong message to Iowans instead of pipeline companies.
- “Companies need to have confidence that Iowa is a great place to do business and that you can count on a stable legal, regulatory, and tax structure.” We should not be worried about building confidence in a company that is bringing a threat to our state. Legislators should protect us. We voted them into office. They should be protecting people over pipeline profits.
- “This can be handled later.” Why would we wait until it is too late to act? The threat is right now. The time to handle it is right now.
- “We shouldn’t rush this.” The pipeline companies are rushing this; this is the pipeline companies’ timeline. We are not rushing this. We would love to have time to understand what is happening and respond to it. It is time to tell the pipeline companies to slow down. We have to address this now; the threat is right now.
- “The developers will continue to work cooperatively with the landowners.” The landowners are filing numerous objections with the utilities board describing bullying, intimidation, and harassing landowners into signing easements. During the public meetings, the pipeline companies presented incomplete and misleading information without addressing the danger to the public, damage to the land, and the taxpayer money spent on the pipelines. They are not working cooperatively with the landowners.
- “This is not an issue for the Iowa legislature, as it does not handle utility projects.” The legislature does handle utility projects by providing the laws regulating the industry. Further the legislature determines when eminent domain can be used.
- “These projects have been in the works for years.” Perhaps, but everyday Iowans only recently were told about them. Iowans should be given time to respond.
The truth

- We elect people to protect us and our communities
- We elect people to tackle the tough issues facing everyday Iowans
- We elect people who put people over profits
- It is our state legislators job to make sure Iowa law protects Iowans
- Now is the exact right time to take action to stop eminent domain for private projects
- There is no excuse to avoid taking on this important issue
- We need elected officials with guts who are willing to stand up for their constituents

What you can do

Call or email your State Senator and Representative and tell them “No eminent domain for private gain!”

- Ask that they support legislation to prohibit the use of eminent domain for hazardous liquid pipelines
- These pipelines are developed and owned by private companies
- These pipelines do not have a public use
- Eminent domain should not be allowed
- There is NO EXCUSE, this is what we elected them to do
- Keep contacting them until we have a commitment that they will support bill this session to restrict eminent domain bill

To find your legislators, see www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find

To look up your house member, see www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/house

To look up your senate member, see www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/senate

Pipeline companies are lobbying the legislators. We have to be louder than them. If we stick together, our resistance will be successful.