

Senator Schultz and Members of the Committee,

I humbly write you today to bring to your attention a concern of a great many Iowans. I operate a 7th generation family farm located in rural Linn County with my father and grandfather, it is also the place where my wife and I have chosen to return to raise our four children. Our family has built a successful operation by being careful stewards of the land that we have farmed since 1854. Recently we, like many of my neighbors, received a certified letter from Heartland Greenway LLC indicating our farm was in the path of a proposed pipeline carrying liquified CO₂ from Iowa's ethanol plants to underground storage in Illinois.

As an Iowa farmer and a conservationist I felt it was my responsibility to attend the informational meetings held by the Iowa Utilities Board to better understand the project, evaluating its potential impact on my farm and local community. During those meetings it became clear that Heartland Greenway LLC intends to petition for permit to gain the use of eminent domain to acquire easement on property they are otherwise unable to negotiate.

In addition to being a lifelong farmer, I have also been a long-time supporter of the founding principles of this country. My support is rooted in my families' conservative values and understanding of our natural rights. Principally, John Locke defined natural rights as:

"The state of nature has a law of nature to govern it, which obliges everyone: and reason, which is that law, teaches all mankind, who will but consult it, that being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty, or possessions"

John Locke, Two Treatises of Government, ed. Thomas Hollis (London: A. Millar et al., 1764).

Locke believed that the most important role of government was to protect these God-given natural rights and in return the citizenry was to follow the legal laws enacted by their representative government. It was these principles that our founding fathers modeled our nation on. It is for this reason that many of our forebears immigrated to this great state, to shed the yoke of the politically connected elite of Europe in order to pursue their natural rights of life, liberty, and property. It is these principles that the both political parties espouses when they are at their best.

While the progress we have made as a country has made us a shining city upon a hill, our greatest achievements are those which we are able to attain collectively through voluntary means. I believe that being a good steward of the land is my charge as an Iowa farmer, as do many of my neighbors, and it is for this reason many of us do not wish to participate in the destruction of our precious topsoil, regardless-of what fair recompense is determined by a county compensation board. Additionally, many of us understand the need to improve our environment, and it is for this reason many of us

have implemented carbon sequestering practices such as reduced tillage and cover crops. We have been supporters of ethanol for similar reasons, however, we do not wish that our hard work to protect our soil be sacrificed without our consent in order to preserve an industry whose future is uncertain. I do not mean this as a slight against the ethanol industry in any way, rather to recognize that Iowa's greatest natural resource is our soil which will outlive my time for this world as well as the long-term outlook for fossil fuels or ethanol. While I do believe we should look for ways to innovate and improve our current systems, we must weigh the benefits against the costs, both short and long terms.

I along with many landowners in the proposed path of the Heartland Greenway Project, implore you to stand up for the natural rights of Iowa's citizens as you have so this legislative body has so nobly done throughout the last two years of the pandemic. We do not marginalize the potential of this project, or any potential new technology, but the interests of private industry must not come at the expense of the property rights of Iowa's citizens.

Our Liberties We Prize and Our Rights We Will Maintain.

Sincerely,

Josh Henik
Henik Family Farms