



# Policy Update

**June 28, 2024**

## **Anti-SB 201 Group Submits Signatures for Referendum**

South Dakota voters may have the chance to decide on November 5 whether to reject a state law regulating transmission lines. The South Dakota Property Rights and Local Control Alliance, a ballot measure committee, submitted approximately 28,000 petition signatures to the Secretary of State's Office. The group needed signatures from 17,508 registered South Dakota voters and the Secretary of State's Office will now review the signatures to check their validity. If the signatures are validated, the referral of SB 201 will be on the November ballot.

Click [here](#) to read SB 201.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the referral process.

## **Iowa Utilities Board Approves Summit Carbon Solutions' Pipeline Application**

The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) recently issued its decision regarding Summit Carbon Solutions' application for a permit to construct, operate, and maintain a hazardous liquid pipeline through 29 counties in Iowa. The IUB approved the application with modifications and will require Summit Carbon to submit additional filings for review before a permit is issued.

In its decision, the IUB unanimously found Summit Carbon met the requirements of Iowa law and that the pipeline "will provide a service that is in the public convenience and necessity." The IUB's order approves the proposed overall pipeline route and grants the right of eminent domain over specific parcels listed in the order after the permit is issued.

It is important to notice that Summit Carbon is also not allowed to begin construction in Iowa until it has obtained approval from North Dakota for the route and sequestration site and approval from South Dakota for the route. The company also cannot start construction of trunk or lateral lines to ethanol plants in Minnesota and Nebraska until approvals are granted in those states.

Click [here](#) to read the and all filings in the docket may be viewed in the IUB's electronic filing system under Docket No. [HLP-2021-0001](#).

## **Legislative Summer Study on Property Tax Assessment Meets**

The Committee on Property Tax Assessment Methodology, co-chaired by Senator Randy Deibert (R-Spearfish) and Representative Drew Peterson (R-Salem), held their first meeting in mid-June. The committee received an explanation of state statutes on property tax assessment from the Department of Revenue, heard testimony from directors of equalization from Brookings and Pennington Counties, and discussed the Agricultural Land Task Force. It is important to note that the committee is not

studying actual taxes paid. Instead, their focus is to examine the methodology by which assessments are made for purposes of real estate taxation. The committee will meet three more times throughout the summer/fall to discuss property tax assessments.

Click [here](#) for more information on the committee and future meeting dates.

### **State Farm Bureaus Submit Comments on National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors**

South Dakota Farm Bureau, in addition to other surrounding state Farm Bureaus, recently submitted comments surrounding the federal government's National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor proposal. The comments include concern that the designation of NIETCs will enable transmission line developers to seek FERC backstop authorization. Additionally, the threat that eminent domain may be exercised for transmission line projects, when those projects may not be the right solutions for grid constraints or congestion. The comments also emphasize the belief Department of Energy's use of the applicant-driven project specific approach overrides ongoing regional and interregional transmission planning by regional transmission operators and independent system operators, while usurping transmission line siting authority of the states.

To read the comments, please click [here](#).

### **Contact for Questions**

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