# Summit Carbon Solutions Granted Eminent Domain for Iowa CO2 Pipeline Construction



**Summit Carbon Solutions Granted Eminent Domain for Iowa CO2 Pipeline Construction**

The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) has granted Summit Carbon Solutions the right to exercise eminent domain in Iowa for the construction of its Midwest Carbon Express CO2 pipeline. The decision follows a contentious process over two and a half years, including a comment period in late 2022 and a four-month-long hearing.

Lee Blank, CEO of Summit Carbon Solutions, emphasized that eminent domain would only be used as a last resort, noting that 75% of the route has been voluntarily agreed upon by landowners. According to Blank, the company aims to continue negotiating voluntarily with the remaining landowners over the next year before construction begins.

Opposition to the project has been persistent. Emma Schmit of the Bold Alliance and Director of the Pipeline Fighters group criticized the IUB decision, asserting that the pipeline does not meet the legal standard of promoting public convenience and necessity. Schmit announced plans to appeal the decision, in collaboration with the Sierra Club.

Despite obtaining approval in Iowa, Summit Carbon Solutions still needs to secure construction permits in Nebraska, Minnesota, and the Dakotas, as well as a permit for a sequestration facility in North Dakota.

State Representative Cindy Golding voiced strong opposition to the IUB’s decision, raising concerns about the safety and environmental impact of CO2 pipelines, referencing a past incident in Mississipi and criticizing the use of eminent domain for private gain.

For Market to Market, I’m David Miller.

Contact: miller@iowapbs.org