

Bethel Township, McDonough County, Illinois Resolution on CO2 Pipelines

INTEGRITY OF ROADS, STEWARDSHIP OF TAX DOLLARS, SAFETY

WHEREAS we the elected officials of Bethel Township are responsible for the maintenance of Township roads, and stewardship of tax dollars, the proposed Navigator Heartland Greenway and any future CO2 pipelines, including transfer of ownership, threatens the integrity of our township roads, negatively impacts our ability to steward our residents' tax dollars, and threatens the safety of people, living, working, and visiting our township, as well as wildlife and livestock, and

Integrity of Roads

WHEREAS per the Township Officials of Illinois 2022 *Laws & Duties Handbook* that *"No ditches, drains, track, rails, poles, wires, pipeline, or other equipment of any public utility company, municipal corporation or other public or private corporation, association or person can be located, placed or constructed upon, under or along any highway, or any township or district road, other than a highway or road within a municipality without first obtaining the written consent of the appropriate highway authority as hereinafter provided for in Section 605 ILCS 5/9-113, and*

WHEREAS in Bethel Township that aforementioned person is our Road Commissioner, who has the authority to: 1) Direct the scope, 2) Require that roadways be returned to original condition or better, including project-related impacts from farm fields that damage township roads, 3) Define the construction season, hours and conditions, 5) Require insurance protections for Bethel township with permittees having 100% liability, 6) Ensure compliance with Illinois state highway law, 7) Assign permittees direct and 100% responsibility, including contractors and/or sub-contractors, 8) Require 100% access by Road Commissioner to any and all road-related activities at any time, and

Stewards of Tax Dollars

WHEREAS our residents would likely experience reduced property values if they are forced to have a CO2 Pipeline through their property, and that this reduction in property values and other productive, tax-paying development along a CO2 Pipeline route risk diminishing the fiscal health of our Township tax base, and

WHEREAS since CO2 crowds out oxygen and disables gas combustion engines, residents of Bethel Township potentially need to pay increased taxes to allow our fire and EMS departments to buy and maintain electric vehicles that would be able to run during a CO2 leak, which is a burden to both taxpayers and emergency planners, and

Safety

WHEREAS the CO2 pipeline failures in Satartia, Mississippi that caused the evacuation of 300 people and resulted in the hospitalization of nearly 50, thus confirming that existing regulations

for such pipelines are inadequate to protect communities from dangerous pipeline failures and potential loss of life, and

WHEREAS residents of Bethel Township and McDonough County would be negatively impacted by living under the constant threat of a CO2 Pipeline leak and explosion, and

WHEREAS The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) plans to initiate a new rulemaking process to strengthen its safety oversight of CO2 pipelines following the rupture in Satartia, and

WHEREAS, at a minimum, in light of the PHMSA creating new measures for CO2 Pipeline Safety, the Illinois Commerce Commission should not grant any CO2 Pipeline the right to build in Illinois until the new safety measures are finalized, and

WHEREAS, we as elected officials of Bethel Township in conjunction with our elected officials in McDonough County, Illinois need time to understand these new PHMSA measures and any additional measures within our purview, to protect our residents, and

WHEREAS, the emergency response plan of McDonough County will need to be updated to include training and special equipment for first responders, such as self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA) and electric ambulances and emergency vehicles, and

Concluding Resolution

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the elected officials of Bethel Township that we hereby support McDonough County's 9-21-22 decision to petition to intervene in the matter of the Navigator Heartland Greenway LLC's CO2 pipeline application, and that there be at the least a two-year moratorium on moving forward, to allow time to maximize protection based on PHMSA safety standards for communities, residents, business, institutions, farmers, wildlife, and livestock, and at the most a permit denial from the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) on the Navigator Heartland Greenway and any future CO2 pipelines passing through McDonough County, Illinois should they be deemed too dangerous to proceed.

Signed Ted McGaughey Highway Commissioner, Ted McGaughey
Theresa S. Frisbie Supervisor, Theresa Frisbie
Bobby J. Rowland Trustee, Bob Rowland
Gene Parks Trustee, Gene Parks
James J. Frisbie Trustee, Jim Frisbie
Carl Pershing Trustee, Carl Pershing
Beth Ann Crabb Clerk, Beth Ann Crabb

Date 13 Dec. 2022