

LETTER TO THE EDITOR (LTE) RESOURCES

WHAT IS AN LTE?

Most newspapers invite their readers to submit short commentaries or Letters to the Editor, which are then reviewed and sometimes run in the opinion section. It is great content to share across social media and other news outlets when an LTE is published.

SOME GUIDELINES FOR AN LTE:

If you avoid a few common pitfalls, you will have much higher chance of getting your letter accepted by the paper. Here are some things to remember before you even begin to write your letter:

- Minimize wordiness. Most letters are 150-300 words long, so remember to be as concise as possible.
- Offer a local perspective on an important topic or respond to a particular article or previously covered story.
- Stay focused. Address just one issue or article per letter.
- Share any of your qualifications or expertise or your background (for example being a landowner or if you've lived your entire life in your county/ family farm/homestead, mention that detail)
- Feel free to refer to relevant legislators or legislative bodies, state government agencies, and local government bodies. They will notice.
- Be respectful. Even if you disagree with an issue, maintain a respectful tone instead of being angry or accusatory.
- Be professional. Keep your tone formal and avoid slang or overly casual phrasing.
- Do not make personal attacks.
- Include your address and phone number. Papers won't publish these but use the information in the case of questions about a letter being authentic.

SAMPLE LETTERS:

Format

Date

Who are you sending it to:

Subject:

To whom it may concern –

Body of the Letter:

Introduction – Gives a brief abstract of the content to follow (This introduction tells the reader what you are going to talk about.)

Content – includes the main details and subject matter of the letter. (This is your opportunity to present the facts and convince the reader that it is important to address.)

Conclusion – This part concludes the information to provide a summary and give fluidity to the whole content. (In conclusion, you can state your position, suggest possible solution for the problem and/or express a call to action.)

Closing

Sincerely,
Sender's Name
Sender's Designation
Sender's Signature
Address/location

Example 1:

8 March 2022

To: Editor, Renville County Register

Subject: Voluntary easements for carbon pipelines are a bad idea for landowners and rural Minnesota.

As liquid carbon pipeline projects try to come to Minnesota, landowners and rural communities should beware. Caution should be taken, as these new pipeline projects have not been approved by the state and when a landowner signs a voluntary easement, that is in perpetuity, and it is legally binding even if the project is not approved. Landowners need more information about the risks, liability and hazards these new pipelines will pose. Furthermore, out of state companies from Iowa and Texas stand to make millions of dollars in profit over the next 20 years if these projects are approved. The deal is, they cannot make that money unless they can have access to your land. If they stand to make money over the next two decades, shouldn't you too?

Join landowners in MN, IA, SD, ND and NE in saying no to these pipelines.

www.carbonpipelinesmn.org
www.cureriver.org



Sincerely
Landowner name
Renville County
Email address

Example 2:

8 March 2022

To: Editor, Renville County Register

Subject: Pipeline companies lack transparency when proposing carbon pipeline projects in rural Minnesota.

As a resident of Renville County and being a landowner, I have serious concerns about claims made by the out of state pipeline companies that want to run their projects through our county and state. These companies are taking out ads in local papers and on radio stations talking about all the benefits of their new pipelines. These claims lack transparency, and we should be asking more questions before we think their billion-dollar pipelines are good for Minnesota.

- 1) Who pays for these projects and who profits from these pipelines?
- 2) How much public (taxpayers) money is involved in these projects on an annual basis and how much do these for-profit industries stand to make?
- 3) Why are they keeping their "investors" secret, if it is such a great opportunity and what is best for rural Minnesota, wouldn't those investors want the public to know that they are engaged?
- 4) They are promising that these projects are going to create 17,000 temporary jobs and 4-500 new jobs. This seems hard to believe and they have not detailed these numbers.
- 5) What are the risks, hazards and liabilities to landowners and rural communities?

Do we really think that a pipeline project sequestering 12 million/metric tons of CO2 a year is going to make a difference when Minnesota alone generates over 161 million/metric tons and the US is generating close to 5,000 million/metric tons on an annual basis? Seems like a drop in the bucket and not worth the \$4.5 billion dollar price tag for a 2,000-mile pipeline project on the backs of taxpayers for decades to come.

Sincerely
Landowner name
Renville County
Email address

ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR WRITING LTES:

- Feel free to refer to relevant legislators or legislative bodies, state government agencies, and local government bodies. They will notice.
- Check your local paper's guidelines for specific word counts and other information. This section is usually found in the opinion section of a newspaper's website.
- Most papers prefer electronically submitted LTES because it saves them time by not typing your letter into their systems. Whatever the case, follow the directions for each paper.

TOPLINE TALKING POINTS TO CONSIDER FOR AN LTE ON CO2 PIPELINES INCLUDE:

- There was no public input for this project. Summit just started meeting with County Commissioners in the ten counties impacted. They only sent letters to the landowners in the proposed pathway and did not invite the *general public* to their "public meetings." They never placed ads in the local papers inviting people to learn about the project last summer/fall when deciding to route their pipeline through our communities.
- The Summit Carbon Pipeline Project will cover Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota, spanning 2,000 miles.
- Summit claims this is the world's largest CO2 pipeline and the first Carbon Capture Usage and Sequestration (CCUS) interstate pipeline in the US.
- This is not proven technology or infrastructure, and CO2 pipelines are pressurized at 2.5 times that of natural gas pipelines. (Approximately 2,300 psi)
- In the event of an incident, rural EMS crews are not equipped to respond to such an emergency. They cannot drive to the incident location (combustion engines need oxygen to run) and many rural EMS crews would not have the appropriate equipment to respond safely.
- CO2 is an asphyxiant; it is odorless and colorless, making it extremely difficult to detect. If there is a rupture/leak or spill, we do not know the health risks for prolonged exposure.
- Voluntary easements are in perpetuity—once you sign, even if the project is not approved, you lose rights to your land in the easement zone.
- Out-of-state companies are planning to use public money to make private profits. These companies plan on taking advantage of tax credits and subsidies, making upwards of \$500–600 million annually from taxpayer dollars. (45Q Federal funding)

HOW DO I SUBMIT AN LTE?

Submissions must be made by the person signing the LTE. In most cases, the newspapers require "exclusivity," meaning that the same LTE is not submitted to multiple outlets. They can either be emailed to editors or submitted via online form. Each newspaper site should list instructions on how to submit LTES and commentaries.

NEWSPAPERS

Martin County Star (Sherburn) | Al Klein mcstar@frontiernet.net

Mankato Free Press (Mankato) | jspear@mankatofreepress.com

Sentinel (Fairmont) Lee Smith | news@fairmontsentinel.com

The Daily Journal (Fergus Falls) | <http://www.fergusfallsjournal.com/submit-letter-to-the-editor/>

Wahpeton Daily News (Breckenridge/Wahpeton) | https://wahpetondailynews-dot-com.bloxcms.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/

Daily Globe (Worthington) | jbuntjer@dglobe.com

Windom News Rahn Larson | rahn@windomnews.com

Live Wire Printing (Jackson/Lakefield) | justin@livewireprinting.com

Advocate Tribune (Granite Falls) | jstolen-jacobson@cherryroad.com

Renville Register (Olivia). | editor@rencopub.com

Redwood Falls Gazette (Redwood Falls) | editor@redwoodfallsgazette.com

West Central Tribune (Willmar area) | letters@wctrib.com

Pioneer Press (Statewide) | letters@pioneerpress.com

MinnPost (Statewide) | feedback@minnpost.com

Star Tribune (Statewide) | opinion@startribune.com