March 20, 2023

Iowa Utilities Board
1375 E Court Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319-0069

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the members of the City Council of Clarksville, submit to you this letter of objection to the proposed Navigator Heartland Greenway LLC pipeline project, which has been slated to be constructed through Butler County.

After careful study and discussion regarding this proposed pipeline, we have serious concerns about the impact that such a pipeline would have on our county and the community of Clarksville. The following points summarize our reasons for opposing the project:

1. We have significant concerns about the potential risks to the safety of our community’s residents, should a pipeline rupture occur. As you are aware, the potential escape of highly pressurized, concentrated CO2 gas from a rupture could rapidly and catastrophically injure and/or kill numerous people in its path. The proposed pipeline route would be positioned close to our Clarksville Community Schools, countless existing homes, businesses, and institutions.

2. Neither the efficacy or safety of this type of CO2 sequestration has yet been adequately studied or documented nor has the Federal Government had time to complete development of adequate safety regulations for them.

3. We believe that the presence of this pipeline, in its currently proposed iterations, would have significant deleterious effects on the economic vitality of our community. Its proximity to the City of Clarksville, would most certainly have a negative impact on the potential for future businesses and residents to expand or locate in and around Clarksville.

4. In a time when small communities like ours are already struggling to maintain adequate quality EMS services, this proposed pipeline would dramatically increase the burden on those essential services that are already stretched thin. The presence of such a pipeline would add increased burden in the form of additional hazardous materials training and increased potential risk to essential EMS personnel, factors which could easily break what is already a tenuous emergency response system in our rural communities. Despite
suggestions that the private developers of the pipeline might help to compensate for such burdens we would argue that we can find no evidence that what they might contribute could begin to balance out the risks involved.

5. We do not feel that the stated potential benefits of this pipeline come close to justifying the enactment of Eminent Domain, which would be necessary for acquiring use of our area’s valuable agricultural land. We believe that, whereas Eminent Domain exists to allow use of private property for the greater good of the public, this project would instead benefit primarily its private investors.

We, as the City Council of the City of Clarksville, Iowa respectfully ask that you give careful consideration to this input, and vote to deny the application for the Navigator Heartland Greenway LLC pipeline project.

Sincerely,

Michael Grantham, Mayor
City of Clarksville