

2011 Proposed NFU Policy Dealing with Pipelines

ARTICLE VI – Water and Land Policy, Conservation and the Family Farm

F. Water Quantity and Quality

2. Water Quality Protection

We oppose:

c) Any infrastructure or resource development that jeopardizes the health, safety and quality of the Ogallala Aquifer and other freshwater resources. (Page 58)

P. Eminent Domain

NFU opposes:

1) The use of eminent domain without the developer putting into place environmental safeguards and assuming liability for damages; and (Page 64)

2) The acquisition of productive farmland through use of the eminent domain process to extend wildlife habitat.

ARTICLE VII – Energy and the Family Farm

B. Distribution

6. Pipelines

Landowners deserve an understandable process that clarifies when and how eminent domain can be used, who has what liability when there are damages from pipeline failure, what the siting standards and routing criteria are, environmental considerations, and decommissioning expectations and costs. The process should provide for transparency in the planning and routing process including public input, fair compensation to landowners, and a process to deal with landowner and public complaints and conflicts.

Pipeline developers should be barred from using non-disclosure agreements prior to, during, and after contract negotiations.

NFU proposes that privately owned pipeline companies must build and escrow, based on percentage of dollars earned through the volume of the product transported, to pay for all road construction, emergency response situations, training of local emergency response providers (ie. Fire Department, hazmat, and paramedics), etc. (Page 77)