



## 2025 South Dakota Legislature

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 606

Introduced by: **Senator Nelson**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Expressing the Legislature's concern about the**  
 2 **potential for a carbon oxide pipeline to become a weapon of mass destruction**  
 3 **to be used by terrorists or unfriendly governments and urging the Public**  
 4 **Utilities Commission to conduct risk assessments and establish stronger**  
 5 **regulatory and security measures for carbon oxide pipelines to ensure**  
 6 **adequate state, county, business, and family emergency response planning.**

7 WHEREAS, the development and expansion of carbon oxide pipelines have increased  
 8 significantly across the United States to accommodate carbon capture and sequestration  
 9 projects; and

10 WHEREAS, carbon oxide pipelines are vulnerable to cyberattacks, sabotage, and terrorist  
 11 attacks targeting energy and other infrastructure to inflict mass casualties or disrupt  
 12 economies; and

13 WHEREAS, pipelines transporting hazardous substances, including carbon oxide, are  
 14 attractive targets for terrorists due to the potential to cause widespread damage and loss of  
 15 life; and

16 WHEREAS, carbon oxide pipelines pose unique dangers due to the asphyxiating properties  
 17 of carbon oxide for instance, which is a dense, odorless, and colorless gas that can settle in  
 18 low-lying areas and displace oxygen; and

19 WHEREAS, a breach or targeted attack of a carbon oxide pipeline could result in a rapid  
 20 and catastrophic release of carbon oxide, potentially leading to mass asphyxiation in nearby  
 21 communities and creating a weapon of mass destruction scenario; and

22 WHEREAS, there is insufficient federal oversight and regulation of carbon oxide pipelines,  
 23 including gaps in emergency response planning, pipeline material standards, and public  
 24 awareness of the risks posed by carbon oxide pipelines; and

1        WHEREAS, there is a need for heightened awareness, enhanced regulatory measures, and  
2 comprehensive security protocols to mitigate the risks associated with carbon oxide pipelines  
3 and to protect public safety; and

4        WHEREAS, families and businesses in South Dakota have a right to information about the  
5 risks posed to them by carbon oxide pipelines so that they are able to prepare family and  
6 business shelter in place and/or evacuation plans in the event of a terrorist or accidental  
7 release of carbon oxide, such that the public's need for information must be balanced against  
8 the need to prevent terrorists from acquiring information that would substantially facilitate  
9 acts of terrorism; and

10       WHEREAS, South Dakota's counties have a duty to protect individuals, families, and  
11 businesses from the risks created by carbon through wise land use permitting that avoids  
12 creating risks of mass-casualty events and minimizes risks to families and businesses, and  
13 through robust interagency emergency response planning, and such permitting and planning  
14 requires access to carbon oxide pipeline safety-related risk information;

15       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the One  
16 Hundredth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the  
17 Legislature expresses its deep concern to the Public Utilities Commission about the potential  
18 for carbon oxide pipelines to be exploited as weapons of mass destruction by terrorist groups  
19 or hostile governments, posing significant threats to public safety, critical infrastructure, and  
20 state and national security; and

21       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature urges the Public Utilities Commission to  
22 conduct comprehensive risk assessments of carbon oxide pipelines and establish stronger  
23 regulatory and security measures to prevent the use of carbon oxide pipelines as weapons of  
24 mass destruction, taking into account the need for safety-related information by county  
25 zoning departments, emergency response agencies, businesses, families, and individuals.