

2026 POLICY GUIDES

Pipelines

Issue

As momentum builds around emerging energy pathways such as sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), expanded natural gas utilization, hydrogen production and transport, and large-scale carbon capture and sequestration, Nebraska's role as an energy corridor state is becoming increasingly significant. Nebraska already hosts an extensive and highly integrated pipeline network that spans hundreds of thousands of miles, forming a critical backbone for both regional energy reliability and national supply chains. That existing infrastructure is a strength — but it also raises an important forward-looking question: how much additional capacity can the system realistically support, and what investments will be required to ensure it continues to function safely, efficiently, and competitively as demand grows and diversifies?

Background

Energy generation in the state relies heavily on Nebraska's extensive pipeline network to support the movement of gases and other energy commodities. The central issue is not simply whether pipelines will expand, but whether Nebraska is positioned to accommodate that growth in a way that preserves reliability, attracts long-term investment, and supports emerging energy markets. With thoughtful policy alignment, modernized regulatory frameworks, and continued collaboration between landowners, industry, and public officials, Nebraska can ensure its pipeline network remains a competitive asset — capable of sustaining both traditional energy flows and the next generation of low-carbon and alternative fuel infrastructure.

Continued innovation in energy production and decarbonization suggests that additional uses and expanded demand for pipeline capacity are likely in the future.

A SNAPSHOT OF THE INDUSTRY: As a whole, Nebraska's pipeline infrastructure can be broadly grouped into three primary systems: crude oil, natural gas, and carbon dioxide transport. In the crude oil sector, the Enbridge Keystone Pipeline System is the most prominent example, moving crude oil from Canada through Nebraska to refineries along the Gulf Coast. For natural gas, the Northern Natural Gas system provides major east-west and north-south transmission capacity across the state, supplying both residential and industrial demand. In addition, pipelines such as Trailblazer have become increasingly important in supporting carbon transport, while companies like Marathon Petroleum facilitate the movement and storage of refined fuels such as diesel and gasoline throughout Nebraska's logistics network.

For Nebraska Farm Bureau members and other stakeholders, the key takeaway is that pipeline infrastructure in the state is not fixed in time. It is expanding, adapting, and becoming more central to a changing energy economy. As demand for reliable energy, industrial development and carbon

management solutions continues to grow, the utilization and strategic importance of Nebraska's pipeline systems are expected to increase accordingly.

Farm Bureau Policy

STATE POLICY:

PIPELINE (2023). We believe the development of energy infrastructure, including pipelines, is in the national interest to assure adequate energy supplies provided measures are in place to assure pipeline safety and protect our natural resources. We believe the state should enact legislation to require a state permit process for energy pipeline routes to assure the interests of Nebraska are considered in pipeline routing decisions. Such a process should be timely, science-based, assure pipeline safety, protect landowner rights, and meet legal requirements to avoid litigation.

We support development of carbon infrastructure and pipelines. We believe the Public Service Commission and county zoning commissions should have oversight of carbon pipeline construction and reclamation within their jurisdictions.

FEDERAL POLICY:

402 – Energy Pgs. 172-175

Questions

- Nebraska's pipelines are regulated at both the state and federal levels. A fixed capacity is available to move gases or oil. How should Nebraska prioritize industry usage of the existing lines? How much natural gas, CO₂, oil, etc. should be allowed when space is limited?
- As large data centers pursue natural gas generation and carbon capture, should agriculture-related industries receive priority access to pipeline capacity when space is limited?
- How do you ensure there is capacity for emerging production, such as SAF, without having to build new channels?
- How should eminent domain operate when multiple projects want to develop across an individual's property?
- Current policy states that property taken from landowners should receive at least 120% of the appraised market value. Is this a fair exchange?
- Should Nebraska Farm Bureau actively pursue state legislation to grant the Public Service Commission ultimate routing and permitting authority over CO₂ pipelines, or should we support leaving the authority strictly in the hands of local county zoning boards?
- Should Nebraska Farm Bureau policy explicitly oppose the use of eminent domain for CO₂ pipelines entirely, or should we define specific statutory parameters for what constitutes a valid "public use" when private companies transport industrial products out of state?