

**Statement of the League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria, Illinois, regarding CO2 Pipelines.**

Since the 1960s, the League of Women Voters has championed efforts to protect air, land, and water resources. The League recognizes that the "... preservation of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the earth's ecosystem is essential for the maximum protection of public health and the environment..." (statement of the national League of Women Voters).

More recently, the national League of Women Voters has said that "... state and local Leagues [of Women Voters] and individual League members, have a critical role to play in helping to limit future climate change and protect the planet".

Because of the U.S. League's commitment to protect our natural resources, the environment, and public health, the Illinois League of Women Voters is supporting the work of the "Coalition to Stop CO2 Pipelines (noillinoisco2pipelines.org), in opposing the construction of CO2 pipelines across Illinois. The Coalition is concerned about safety issues resulting from the operation of these pipelines, and, additionally, the potential impact that proposed pipelines could have on environmental justice communities.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria stands with the state League in its concerns about the safety of CO2 pipelines as these pipelines are currently envisioned and planned. The federal agency in charge of pipeline safety, U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has acknowledged that "... new measures to strengthen its safety oversight of carbon dioxide (CO₂) pipelines around the country and protect communities from dangerous pipeline failures..." are required (PHMSA statement May 26, 2022). Without those guidelines that PHMSA recognizes are needed, our communities are at risk from the construction of CO2 pipelines.

This concern about CO2 pipeline safety has special urgency in our local central Illinois community, as Wolf Carbon Solutions/ADM has proposed laying a CO2 pipeline through parts of Peoria County, including areas in the South Side of the City of Peoria.

We call on our elected state and local officials to enact meaningful regulations that will protect our farmers, our communities, and our farmland -- a valuable resource that our lives depend on. Until adequate safeguards are in place, until the public has had a full opportunity to be meaningfully informed and heard on the issues, until dangers to health and the environment have been fully addressed and resolved, we oppose the construction of any CO2 pipelines.