



Written by [William S. Hahn](#) on July 25, 2023

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Taking Action: “Birchy, but Right”

The three words of this headline come from a rather liberal independent blog in South Dakota. The *Dakota Free Press* used that as its headline for an article reporting on efforts of The John Birch Society (JBS) and others to protect the property rights of affected landowners against land-grab attempts to facilitate a carbon-capture pipeline.



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It reported, “[JBS] and South Dakota’s hard right are harder and more visibly [sic] than any left-wing groups to protect South Dakota property rights from the predations of the mainstream Republicans behind the Summit Carbon Solutions land grab.”

The *Berkeley Daily Gazette* did something similar back in 1971. Its headline — “Whatever Else, Call Him ‘Correct’” — referred to JBS founder Robert Welch. That newspaper was not what we’d call a bastion of conservatism. Yet, this is what happens when common ground is found. Sometimes honesty prevails.

As JBS leadership has mentioned over the decades, the battle for this country will not be won through politics. It’s not a Republican vs. Democrat battle. It’s freedom vs. tyranny, and as the Iowa and South Dakota legislatures have thoroughly demonstrated this year, no one political party holds a monopoly on freedom or tyranny.

JBS members are hard at work in those states sounding the alarm bells of this land grab and providing leadership and solutions that can only come from the organization’s nearly 65 years of grassroots experience. Staff are busy organizing leaders and concerned patriots to build pressure on officials to protect their constituents’ property rights.

The Houses of Representatives of both Iowa and South Dakota had legislative packages that were going to do just that, and these sailed through. But the Senates were a different story, and the bills were killed in committee — by Republicans. Media reports suggest that there may be some conflict of interest, as some of these Republicans accepted political donations from the companies seeking pipeline permits.

This news isn’t a shocker, especially to those who stand on principle. Let’s examine the problem. Industry has sprung up around federal tax dollars that are funding radical environmental projects — namely the UN’s Agenda 2030. Industry gets money for playing along with the climate-change scheme and providing infrastructure for carbon-capture pipelines collecting CO₂ from ethanol plants and depositing it in old petroleum wells in North Dakota. Doing so gives the ethanol plants and pipeline companies federal tax credits that make their ethanol more attractive to buyers, namely in California. Unfortunately, too many have shoved their snouts into the federal trough, and have also bought into



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climate change (or perhaps just turned a blind eye in order to receive federal funds). Now, their actions are beginning to have real-world consequences. To defend this land grab is entirely despicable and anti-American.

As former JBS CEO Art Thompson pointed out in his book [Property Rights: As Sacred as the Laws of God](#), John Adams once said, “The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not as sacred as the laws of God, anarchy and tyranny commence.”

And that is exactly where we are now. Thanks to the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, \$375 billion over the next decade will be spent to cut greenhouse-gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030. While the Midwest may be the first to be affected, all that money will end up in various projects across the entire country, with tens of billions to be spent on thousands more miles of pipelines.

Is your property next? Don't wait to take action on this. Start at [JBS.org](#) and look for the [Stop Agenda 2030: War on Farmers](#) action project. Educate yourself using the recommended materials, then inform others and be persistent in getting local elected officials to act. To be the most effective, join The John Birch Society. We'll help you, and we're in this for the long haul. Can we count on your help to protect American liberties and freedom?

— *William S. Hahn, CEO of The John Birch Society*



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