

When You're Strong-Armed, You've Got to Have the Best on Your Side!



"My first attorney told me, 'No one around here can handle the pipeline company.' He was right. Thank goodness I found Goldman & Braunstein. I don't know what I would do without them."

- Ed Goshe, Fourth Generation Farmer, Seneca County, Ohio

Our Client

"We go back a long way." That's how Ed Goshe explains his family's connection to their 120-acre farm in Seneca County, Ohio. Ed's great-grandfather purchased part of the land in the 1890's, and additional land was acquired over the years. Today, Ed harvests soybeans, corn and wheat.

The Threat

Sunoco Logistics Partners is constructing an underground petroleum pipeline to transport refined oil products. In 2012, the pipeline company began approaching landowners to secure easements. Only, Goshe would hardly call it an "approach."

"I never encountered anything like this in my entire life. I was strong-armed all the way. Harassed over the phone, everything you can imagine to get me to sign the easement."

Sunoco told Goshe that an old easement dating back to the 1930's was still valid and pertained to the current project, since the path of the new line would be similar. Goshe thought that didn't sound right, and knew he needed help. At a meeting sponsored by the Ohio Farm Bureau he was referred to eminent domain attorneys Goldman & Braunstein.

How We Helped

Goldman & Braunstein were the allies Goshe and his wife needed. In fact, the eminent domain experts represented landowners along some 40 miles of the Sunoco Pipeline.

First, the attorneys proved that easements agreed upon more than 80 years ago had little bearing on the land today. Then they focused on modifying the easement in order to effectively protect Goshe's farmland for decades to come.

The Results

Sunoco initially sought to run its pipeline right through the center of the Goshe farm, thereby affecting some 90 acres. Goldman & Braunstein were successful in getting the path of the pipeline moved over. Had they been unable to successfully negotiate relocation, Goshe says he would have "lost" twice as much land and it would be far more difficult to farm. In addition, they were able to secure significantly more compensation.

The pipeline continues to cause problems on Ed Goshe's farms. Goldman & Braunstein have unwaveringly stood by his side to combat them. This fall the pipeline construction on his land made it nearly impossible to plant his crops. His allies were there to handle it.

"Goldman and Braunstein have been by my side for some time now. I could not have gotten my crops in without their intervention. I don't know what I would do without them. I can't praise them enough for what they do for me."