

April 11, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6175

The Honorable Tom Carper  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6175

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

The Clean Air Task Force is writing you in support of the Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies (USE IT) Act - introduced by Chairman Barrasso and cosponsored by Senators Whitehouse, Capito and Heitkamp. This legislation is an important step that builds on the recent adoption of the FUTURE Act, which made significant important revisions to and extended the 45Q CCUS tax credit. The USE IT Act addresses several important issues that will help us reach the potential of carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS) including:

- Providing a boost to early stage technology efforts of direct capture of CO<sub>2</sub> from the air by establishing a \$25 million x-prize
- Providing \$50 million in support for R&D on innovative carbon utilization efforts
- Helping facilitate CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline infrastructure development by clarifying CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline eligibility under the FAST Act
- Requiring the Council on Environmental Quality to develop guidance and regional task forces that address project and pipeline permitting efficiency improvements and identify activities that can transform carbon into a valuable commercial product

Helping bring new technologies into the commercialization process is an important complement to the market “pull” offered by the 45Q tax incentive. Moreover, building pipeline infrastructure will be crucial for all aspects of technology development and deployment.

While there are many economic and technological benefits for CCUS, it is a critical-path technology for reducing carbon emissions. The most recent assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2014 underscored the critical-path role CCUS will need to play in meeting the temperature targets agreed to under the Paris accords. In the vast majority of emissions reduction scenarios developed by the IPCC, CCUS was necessary to meet temperature goals – and atmospheric carbon removal was an important component of CCUS in those scenarios. Only those few scenarios that included global land use change on a massive scale were able to meet the goal without significant use of CCUS.

CATF greatly appreciates the continued support for CCUS and Chairman Barrasso’s commitment to ensure this legislation moves forward on a bi-partisan consensus basis. We look forward to working with you to ensure the USE IT Act is enacted by Congress.

Sincerely,

Kurt Waltzer  
  
Managing Director  
Clean Air Task Force