



**Industrial
Innovation
Initiative**

a partnership between Great Plains Institute and
World Resources Institute

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Chris Coons
U.S. Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
U.S. Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Marc Veasey
U.S. House of Representatives
2348 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David McKinley
U.S. House of Representatives
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Coons and Cassidy and Representatives Veasey and McKinley:

On behalf of participants of the Industrial Innovation Initiative (I³), thank you for your continued commitment to expand and accelerate the deployment of carbon management technologies to reduce emissions, create and retain highly-skilled jobs that pay above prevailing wages and spur investment in domestic energy, industrial and manufacturing sectors, as our nation seeks to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. We write today in strong support of the bipartisan Storing CO₂ and Lowering Emissions (SCALE) Act, which will foster the development of interconnected CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure, as well as provide incentives for carbon utilization, to help the U.S. reach net-zero emissions and meet midcentury climate goals.

The Industrial Innovation Initiative is an ambitious coalition that brings together key industrial and power companies, environmental organizations, labor unions and state officials from Midwestern and Gulf Coast states to focus on decarbonization solutions for the region's most important industrial sectors. The initiative, co-convened by the [Great Plains Institute](#) and the [World Resources Institute](#), seeks to accelerate adoption of these decarbonization solutions by advancing needed policies at the state and federal levels.

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on much of the economy, and the industrial and power sectors are no exception. The current pandemic offers both the challenge and opportunity to rebuild and retool our energy sector better and cleaner than ever before. It is clear that carbon capture, removal, utilization, transport and storage have a unique role to play in the broader economic recovery – both in creating and retaining high-wage jobs and in reducing emissions. Industrial and power carbon capture projects will need long-term availability of large-scale saline geologic storage sites and CO₂ infrastructure, the near-term development of which can stimulate private investment and generate employment. Laying the groundwork for CO₂ transport and geologic storage hubs, as well as development of utilization options for captured carbon dioxide (CO₂) and its precursor carbon monoxide (CO), is essential to the development of a broader commercial carbon capture industry, which would support high-value American jobs across entire regions and multiple industries adversely impacted by COVID-19, while also enabling longer-term carbon management at scale.

This legislation would establish a comprehensive federal policy for the development of regional and national infrastructure to transport CO₂ captured from industrial facilities, power plants, and ambient air through direct air capture, and safely store it deep underground in saline geologic formations—an essential component of any broader strategy to achieve net-zero emissions and meet midcentury climate goals.

Modeled after other successful federal transportation and water infrastructure funding mechanisms, the SCALE Act would provide low-interest loans and grants to leverage with existing private capital, to finance the regional and national buildout of cost-effective, shared CO₂ transport infrastructure networks and large-scale saline geologic storage hubs. This would, in turn, enable the scale-up of carbon capture and removal from our nation's industrial facilities, power plants and future large-scale direct air capture facilities. The legislation would provide funding to support the development of large-scale commercial saline geologic storage sites, as well as increased funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support federal and state permitting of saline geologic storage projects.

The legislation would also establish a carbon utilization research, development, and demonstration center to advance research on fuels, chemicals and other materials made with captured carbon emissions. Complementing that, it would provide incentives to states and municipalities to procure products that use captured CO₂ and CO in order to help create demand for these innovative products, a critical step in developing a wider carbon utilization market.

We urge Congress to prioritize the inclusion of this critical legislation in any broader infrastructure package, given its essential role in helping to achieve net-zero emissions economywide. We stand ready to work with you to implement policies that incentivize investment in low-carbon technologies, processes, products and markets within the industrial sector to achieve net-zero emissions goals.

Sincerely,

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy	Clean Air Task Force
Dow	Entergy
Growth Energy	International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
LafargeHolcim	LanzaTech
Linde	Minnesota Energy
National Wildlife Federation	Oxy Low Carbon Ventures
Shell	Solidia Technologies
Third Way	United Steelworkers

CC:

Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell
House Energy & Commerce Committee
House Science, Space, & Technology Committee
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Senate Environment & Public Works Committee
Senate Finance Committee