

March 19, 2021

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

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 the undersigned states, thank you for your continued commitment to expand and accelerate carbon capture deployment to reduce emissions, create and retain highly-skilled jobs that pay above prevailing wages and spur investment in domestic energy, industrial and manufacturing, 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 aims to develop an interconnected CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure to help the U.S. reach net-zero emissions and meet midcentury climate goals.

In Quarter 3 of 2020, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Montana, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and Wyoming entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) committing to the establishment and implementation of a Regional CO₂ Transport Infrastructure Action Plan. The vision of these collective, motivated states is to accelerate, through state leadership and coordination, the development of regional CO₂ transport infrastructure networks and carbon hubs in which industries take advantage of economies of scale through common transport and geologic storage infrastructure.

The development of regional and national CO₂ transport networks, together with proposed tax credits and other financial incentives for carbon capture from industrial facilities and power plants and through direct air capture, can support long-term production and use of America's abundant and affordable natural resources, and create and preserve highly-skilled jobs in energy-producing, agricultural, and industrial states that consistently pay above prevailing wages, all while significantly reducing net carbon emissions. To achieve the development of regional and national CO₂ transport infrastructure networks, collaboration among states, federal agencies, tribal government, and industry, nongovernmental organizations, labor, and other stakeholders will be key.

Modeled after other successful 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. Additionally, the legislation would provide cost shares to support the development of large-scale commercial saline geologic storage sites, as well as

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increased funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support federal and state permitting of saline geologic storage projects.

The expansion of an interconnected CO2 transport system will enable the transport of large volumes of CO2 from our nation's industrial facilities, power plants, and future large-scale direct air capture facilities to suitable saline geologic formations where it can be safely and permanently stored. The availability of this transport and storage network is urgently needed to accelerate the commercial deployment of carbon capture technologies to meet midcentury climate goals.

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. As a group of collective states with a shared interest, we stand ready to work with you to implement policies that scale up the regional and national CO2 transport infrastructure to achieve net-zero emissions goals.

Sincerely,



Governor John Bel Edwards
Louisiana



Governor Kevin Stitt
Oklahoma



Governor Tom Wolf
Pennsylvania



Governor Mark Gordon
Wyoming

cc: The Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, House of Representatives
The Hon. Kevin McCarthy, Minority, U.S. House of Representatives
The Hon. Chuck Schumer, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
The Hon. Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
House Energy & Commerce Committee
House Science, Space, & Technology Committee
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
Senate Finance Committee
Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Senate Environment & Public Works Committee