STAND WITH ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES

AGAINST CARBON CAPTURE, UTILIZATION AND STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES (CCUS)

Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) technologies refer to various industrial-chemical processes for capturing CO2 from the atmosphere to allegedly be reused or stored and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These technologies, also known as “carbon removal” and “negative emissions,” are untested, unproven, and unsavory science fiction. There is no empirical evidence that CCUS can reduce carbon emissions or other co-pollutants. Instead, they perpetuate harm against Environmental Justice communities by allowing the fossil fuel industry to continue their toxic operations. All people, no matter where they live, deserve to breathe clean air. CCUS projects cost taxpayers billions of dollars from public funding. They amount to government giveaways to corporations. It’s time we invest in real climate solutions, in our communities, and in our common future.

We, the undersignatories of this letter, stand together for communities’ right to clean air, and against false solutions like CCUS.

CCUS DOES NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF FOSSIL FUEL EXTRACTION

Unprecedented Oil & Gas Exploration will expand GHG Emissions globally
Between 2018 and 2050, U.S. drilling into new oil and gas reserves could unlock 120 billion metric tons of new carbon pollution, which is equivalent to the lifetime CO2 emissions of nearly 1,000 coal-fired power plants. If not curtailed, U.S. oil and gas expansion will impede the rest of the world’s ability to manage a climate-safe, equitable decline of oil and gas production.¹

Aging pipeline infrastructure threatens critical life supporting ecologies and economies
Enbridge Line 5, which traverses the Great Lakes, has failed at least 33 times since 1968, spilling more than 1.1 million gallons of oil across Michigan and Wisconsin. Enbridge’s pipeline network alone had 1,364 failures that spilled over 9.8 million gallons between 1996-2018.²

Stop propping up a dying industry!
When we continue to allow fossil fuel extraction rather than stopping it altogether, we are complicit in the ongoing support of a dying industry. According to a report on oil and gas bailouts during the Trump Administration, since 2016, more than 200 oil and gas companies have gone bankrupt, accounting for roughly $150 billion in debt.³

**CCUS IS A DANGEROUS AND RISKY BET**
The feasibility of large scale deployment of CCS technologies is yet unproven
There are technical and social uncertainties associated with carbon dioxide removal (such as sustainability of large-scale deployment relative to other land and biomass needs; distributional impacts of deployment of new technology; costs and financing of a new technology)⁴. According to the IPCC 2019 report, significant near-term emissions reductions and measures to lower energy and land demand can limit the need for future CDR deployment.⁵

The pilot cases around the world have endangered critical water resources
The Sleipnir project in the North Sea, operated by ExxonMobil, Statoil and Total, has been injecting up to 1 million tonnes of CO₂ a year from a natural gas processing facility into a sub-seabed saline aquifer. Observations have been reported of oily water, unexplained cracking and damage to the formation related to injections, an oil leak, and unanticipated movement of injected CO₂ through the formation. These observations are coupled with a significant discrepancy between the amount of CO₂ injected and what has been detected in seismic surveys.⁶

CCS has failed due to exorbitant cost overruns
The 2009 “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act” (ARRA) allocated significant ongoing funding to carbon capture, $3.4 billion annually, in order to develop and deploy carbon capture, primarily with the Clean Coal Power Initiative (CCPI). With all the projects abandoned under the CCPI and loan guarantee program, cost concerns were the main issue cited, most famously FutureGen, which was a long saga begun under President Bush in 2003, and revamped multiple times. FutureGen was canceled in early 2015 for the third time.⁷

**RECYCLING OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CAN INCREASE POLLUTION IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES**
Running CCS uses more energy and directly impacts EJ communities
If all power plants used CCS, they would burn 39 percent more natural gas and 43 percent more coal, thereby exacerbating air and water pollution impacts, which fall disproportionately on lower-income people and communities of color.⁸ It would also mean the presence of highly toxic concentrated CO₂, with disastrous consequences for already vulnerable populations.⁹

CCUS projects in the United States continue to fail

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⁷ Mississippi Center for Public Policy. [https://mspolicy.org/two-years-since-kemper-clean-coal-project-ended/](https://mspolicy.org/two-years-since-kemper-clean-coal-project-ended/)