

April 10, 2018

Chairman John Barrasso
Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Tom Carper
Committee on Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

I am writing in support of S.2602, the USE IT Act, your bill to incentivize carbon use and direct air capture, and to better understand carbon capture infrastructure needs. Carbon capture is a key climate technology that many models show will likely be necessary to meeting emissions targets. The United States should continue to support the development and deployment of the full range of carbon capture technologies - from direct air capture to industrial emissions to carbon use.

Reducing emissions as quickly as possible domestically and abroad should be a top priority. However, many climate scientists expect that we will need negative emissions technologies to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Direct air capture is a cutting edge technology that could prove vital in protecting our planet and we appreciate that this bill would support further development.

We also appreciate that this bill would provide necessary federal support for the growing carbon use industry. While there are dozens of carbon use projects globally, the United States is home to more than any other single country. We should support and cultivate this industry, which has the potential to establish new opportunities to beneficially use and store carbon dioxide.

Finally, particularly after the recent passage of the FUTURE Act, which we expect to lead to increased deployment of carbon capture projects, there is a need to consider what infrastructure will be required to widely deploy this technology. The provisions in the USE IT Act track closely with the recommendations of the 2015 Quadrennial Energy Review and other expert recommendations, and we applaud the committee's interest in this issue.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee.

Sincerely,

Josh Freed
Vice President for Clean Energy
Third Way