

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 16, 2023

Mr. David Crane
Director
Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations
US Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Director Crane,

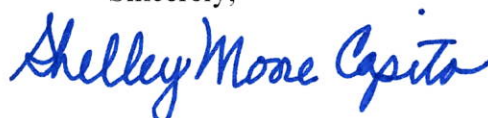
I write in support of the Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub's (ARCH2) application to the Department of Energy's Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program (H2Hubs). ARCH2 is comprised of a wide array of industry leaders, academic institutions, the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), and is backed by the state governments of West Virginia, Ohio, Maryland, and Kentucky.

ARCH2 will be located in the Marcellus and Utica Shale formations, an important feature of the proposal as the statute requires that at least one H2Hub must utilize fossil fuels, paired with carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) technologies, to create blue hydrogen. These shale formations are among the nation's richest natural gas resources and also encompass the geology necessary for safe long-term storage of carbon oxides. Nevertheless, ARCH2 is unique in that its proposal is not only to produce blue hydrogen, but also green hydrogen generated from renewable energy sources, which will allow for a diverse group of suppliers as well as end users in a regional hydrogen cluster.

Some of the industries that are participating in ARCH2 include energy, transportation, chemical, and steel. All of these industries have a rich history in West Virginia, which is why I know that the skilled West Virginian workforce will create a successful hub that will provide good-paying jobs, while reducing carbon emissions. The proximity of these industries to the sites of hydrogen production will also reduce transportation costs, logistical challenges, and the potential of fugitive emissions that may occur as a result of long-distance transport of compressed or even supercritical hydrogen.

Since the process began last year, I have been a vocal supporter of the Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub and remain confident that ARCH2 has assembled a team of experts in their respected fields, with the skills and dedication to develop a successful hydrogen hub. West Virginia's brightest days are ahead of us, and I believe that ARCH2 will be looked to as a shining example of how to successfully create a regional hydrogen economy in Appalachia. I am fully supportive of ARCH2's proposal and I hope you will give this application your full consideration.

Sincerely,



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator