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April 9, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso  
U.S. Senate  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
U.S. Senate  
530 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senators Barrasso and Whitehouse:

On behalf of Great River Energy, I write to support S. 2602, the "Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies" (USEIT) Act. Thank you for sponsoring this bill that would provide a possible pathway for electric utilities and others to research and implement carbon capture, utilization and sequestration (CCUS) technology.

Great River Energy is a generation and transmission cooperative based in Minnesota that provides electricity to 695,000 members by serving 28 distribution cooperatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin. We own power plants and (through a subsidiary) ethanol plants in North Dakota that could be sources of carbon dioxide under the act.

CCUS has the potential to be a beneficial method of reducing the emission of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere. If the carbon dioxide could be used for a commercially valuable purpose, such as enhanced oil recovery, then the economic feasibility of CCUS would be advanced. The bill would direct the EPA to provide technical and financial assistance to carbon dioxide utilization projects. This could be very beneficial to industry as it seeks to reduce or control carbon dioxide emissions.

S. 2602, Title II, Section 201, would clarify that CCUS projects are covered projects for purposes of Title XLI of the FAST Act, which is intended to improve the timeliness of the Federal environmental review and permitting process. We support this section of the bill, as well, because delays in permitting can adversely affect the feasibility of innovative projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on such an innovative and constructive bill that could be beneficial both to industry and to the environment.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rick Lancaster'.

Rick Lancaster  
Vice President and Chief Generation Officer