



April 10, 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 the Lignite Energy Council, I write in full support of the “Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies” (USEIT) Act. I greatly appreciate your leadership in authoring this legislation.

The Lignite Energy Council is a regional trade association for coal mines, electric utilities and about 300 business providing good and services to the mines and plants that supply power to over two million people in the upper Midwest region of the United States. The primary objective of the Lignite Energy Council is to maintain a viable lignite coal industry and enhance development of the region’s lignite coal resources for use in generating electricity, synthetic natural gas and valuable byproducts. This legislation will be of great importance for our industry to meet our members’ goals and objectives.

Our region has been a leader in carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS) as one of our electric generation members, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, has been operating the largest carbon sequestration project in the world known as The Great Plains Synfuels Plant for the past twenty years. In addition, we are currently supporting the advancement of many breakthrough CCUS research and development programs to ensure the long-term viability of North Dakota’s lignite coal and energy generation industries for future generations.

The USEIT Act will greatly advance CCUS technology development by giving our industry access to solutions that will be necessary to build new test facilities and infrastructure that are important and commonsense solutions for lignite electric power generation. The Lignite Energy Council and our members support this legislation because it will help provide much needed financial and technical assistance to further our efforts towards CCUS. Thank you for your leadership on this legislation and for your consideration in the Senate.

Sincerely,

Jason Bohrer
CEO & President

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