

1050 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20007  
(202) 298-1850 Phone  
(202) 338-2416 Fax  
curc@vnf.com  
www.curc.net



February 17, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the Carbon Utilization Research Council (CURC), I would like to extend our congratulations for your victory in the 2020 Presidential election. CURC looks forward to working with your administration as you begin to take on the numerous challenges our country faces.

The United States is currently confronting twin public health and economic crises stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the 2020 campaign, one measure that was consistently raised to help address these crises and “Build Back Better” was to invest significantly in our nation’s infrastructure to revitalize the U.S. economy, create good-paying jobs, and address global climate change. As your administration seeks to implement national energy, climate, and infrastructure policy, CURC urges you to support investment in an all-of-the-above clean energy infrastructure strategy, including significant support for carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) technology deployment.

United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) modeling suggests the difficulty in keeping global warming to below 2°C above preindustrial levels if bioenergy, CCUS, and their combination are limited. The International Energy Agency (IEA), which modeled the innovations necessary to achieve the IPCC targets, suggests CCUS represents approximately 40% of the technology innovation necessary to achieve net-zero by 2050, proving that reaching global net-zero emissions targets are virtually impossible without CCUS.

Members of CURC are at the forefront of their industries in the development and commercialization of CCUS technologies. While the U.S. is making significant strides in the creation of a viable CCUS industry, continued progress will require a robust and sustained set of policies to incentivize investment in the same way similar investments were provided for other nascent energy technologies. Increased public and private sector investment in CCUS will be required for the technology to contribute to global decarbonization at the rate and scale needed. Investments in CCUS coupled with large-scale geologic storage are also necessary to lay the groundwork for the carbon removal technologies of the future.

Your administration has also adopted a goal to have a carbon-free power sector by 2035. Simply put, the U.S. will not be able to achieve this goal without CCUS, which is necessary to mitigate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fueled electricity generation while ensuring a continued source of dispatchable power. Short duration battery storage to support intermittent resources will not be sufficient to address long duration power needs in this time frame, and CCUS is a critical alternative to provide that dispatchable generation.

CCUS will also play an important role in transitioning and creating the jobs that are a critical component of the “Build Back Better” plan. These include dependable, high-paying jobs at existing electric power and industrial facilities, construction jobs for new CCUS facilities and related infrastructure, and a wide array of jobs across the CCUS supply chain.

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Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed global economic activity, leading to a drop in energy demand and prices, and creating uncertainty in financial markets. Near-term investment in emerging technologies like CCUS could benefit the recovery effort, as new project development would lead to new jobs, more affordable energy for U.S. citizens, economic growth, and future opportunities to export U.S.-developed CCUS technologies. There are several policies that your administration can support that would accelerate CCUS project deployment and contribute to achieving the goals set out in the “Build Back Better” plan. Those include:

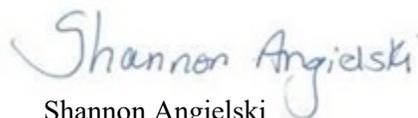
- Supporting a direct payment mechanism for the Section 45Q tax credit for carbon oxide sequestration;
- Updating eligibility requirements for the Section 48A tax credit to make it usable for companies wishing to install CCUS equipment;
- Funding through DOE grants for CCUS demonstration projects;
- Expanding funding for federal carbon dioxide storage activities;
- Supporting increased appropriations for research, development, and demonstration of CCUS technologies, as authorized in the Energy Act of 2020;
- Expediting siting and permitting of CCUS infrastructure on federal lands;
- Establishing an Interagency Task Force on CCUS to facilitate and coordinate interagency activities related to CCUS project deployment.

Similarly, achieving the “Build Back Better” plan will require a new national strategy on energy and climate. As your administration develops this strategy, we encourage you to adopt policy design principles that will create a solid foundation for CCUS to contribute to net-zero targets as required by IPCC and IEA modeling. Policies must also ensure energy consumers continue to have access to secure, low-cost, and accessible – or dispatchable in the case of electricity generation – forms of energy, and be accompanied by –

- 1) a recognition that CCUS technology must be cost-competitive with other zero- and low-carbon technologies for it to be commercially applied in any industry sector;
- 2) a robust and complementary set of incentives to develop and deploy cost-effective CCUS technologies;
- 3) a clear and harmonized set of requirements and incentives to facilitate pipeline transportation of captured CO<sub>2</sub> and the infrastructure needed to support carbon capture, transport, and storage; and,
- 4) increased and continued support for CO<sub>2</sub> storage and the study of post CO<sub>2</sub> injection and monitoring in geologic formations.

We encourage your administration to act on each of the specific outlined policies and include the design principles in your Administration’s national energy and climate strategy, which will make a considerable impact in stimulating our economy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and contribute to any efforts to meet domestic and global climate change objectives. If our organization can be of any assistance to your administration in these efforts, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,



Shannon Angielski  
Executive Director  
Carbon Utilization Research Council

CC: Susan Rice, Director, Domestic Policy Council, Executive Office of the President  
Gina McCarthy, National Climate Adviser, Executive Office of the President

Ali Zaidi, Deputy National Climate Adviser, Executive Office of the President  
Tarak Shah, Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of Energy  
Avi Zevin, Deputy General Counsel, Energy Policy, U.S. Department of Energy  
Jennifer Wilcox, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Fossil Energy

## 2021 CURC Members

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General Electric  
Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America,  
Inc. (MHIA)

### Labor Unions

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers  
International Brotherhood of Electrical  
Workers

### NGOs

ClearPath Action  
EnergyBlue Project

### Producers

Consol Energy  
Occidental  
Peabody Energy

### Research Organizations

Battelle  
Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)  
Gas Technology Institute  
University of North Dakota Energy &  
Environmental Research Center

### State Organizations

Energy Policy Network  
Kansas State Geological Survey  
Southern States Energy Board  
Wyoming Energy Authority

### Technology Developers

Bloom Energy  
Bright Energy  
ION Engineering  
Jupiter Oxygen Corporation  
NET Power

### Trade Associations

American Coal Council  
American Coalition for Clean Coal  
Electricity (ACCCE)  
Edison Electric Institute (EEI)  
Lignite Energy Council  
National Rural Electric Cooperative  
Association (NRECA)

### Universities

Colorado School of Mines  
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University of Illinois/PRI  
University of Kentucky/CAER  
University of Texas – Austin  
University of Wyoming  
West Virginia University

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