

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



March 3, 2020

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairwoman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Ranking Member
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Manchin:

The Carbon Utilization Research Council (CURC) is pleased to support the American Energy Innovation Act (AEIA). Subtitle D of the legislation incorporates the Enhancing Fossil Fuel Energy Carbon Technology (EFFECT) Act (S. 1201), legislation you co-introduced in 2019 that would provide an important update to the Fossil Energy Research and Development (FER&D) Program at the Department of Energy. The AEIA would modernize the program to confront the unique challenge we face to address the effects of climate change while ensuring access to affordable, reliable electricity, and CURC applauds your leadership in developing and introducing the legislation in a bipartisan fashion

The AEIA aligns with the recommendations made in the *2018 CURC-EPRI Advanced Fossil Energy Technology Roadmap* by making substantial investments in RD&D for carbon capture and storage technologies and authorizing funding for large-scale pilot and commercial demonstration projects, including Front-End Engineering and Design (FEED) studies. This kind of comprehensive federal support is critical to ensure that technologies are able to move from the basic research phase through to commercialization. CURC also appreciates the incorporation of provisions included in the Launching Energy Advancement and Development through Innovations for Natural Gas (LEADING) Act (S. 1685) that would authorize five commercial carbon capture demonstration projects within five years, with at least two projects on both coal and natural gas electric generation facilities.

The United States must be a leader in developing a broad suite of energy technologies that have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while also unlocking economic benefits for the U.S. The AEIA is a critical piece of legislation that, if enacted, will satisfy the global need for affordable energy, improve U.S. energy security, increase exports of U.S. resources and manufactured energy equipment, create high-paying jobs, and improve environmental quality. CURC is thrilled to support this legislation and we look forward to seeing it signed into law during this Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Shannon Angielski'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'S' being particularly large and stylized.

Shannon Angielski
Executive Director, CURC

Co-Chairs

Michael Flannigan
Peabody

Melissa Horton
Southern Company

Vice Chairs

Dale Niezwaag
Basin Electric Power
Cooperative

Treasurer

Zak Baig
ClearPath Action

Secretary

Ruth Demeter
Peabody

**Leadership
Council**

Markus Becker
GE

**Executive
Director**

**Shannon
Angielski**