



**INTERNATIONAL
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LONNIE R. STEPHENSON
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October 24, 2017

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of the approximately 750,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, I write to urge your support for S. 1535, the "Furthering carbon capture, Utilization, Technology, Underground storage and Reduced Emissions," or FUTURE Act, bipartisan legislation that would extend and increase the Internal Revenue Service Section 45Q federal credit to encourage investment in carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS). This would create financial incentives for the development of innovative technologies to lessen the environmental impacts of coal extraction, use and disposal.

Since it was introduced in July by Senator Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, the bill has drawn support from nearly a third of the Members of the U.S. Senate.

The IBEW represent hundreds of thousands of members in the utility industry, and through the years we have been key to policy and legislative discussions relating to energy and the environment. Members have worked countless hours installing and maintaining pollution control equipment in coal-fired powerhouses, steel mills, automobile manufacturing facilities, oil refineries and other industrial facilities. The IBEW is an integral part of the conversation about domestic environmental law and climate change.

There is consensus among energy and climate organizations that CCUS technology is an essential tool in the effort to reduce carbon dioxide emissions while ensuring energy security. This bill would extend a critical tax credit for carbon oxide sequestration and storage, harmful emissions that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere as greenhouse gases. Targeted policies make such projects viable and to allow this critical technology to continue moving through the innovation pipeline. Carbon capture technology cannot develop without federal support.

Not only does the legislation enjoy bipartisan support in Congress, it is supported by environmental groups like the Natural Resources Defense Council





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as well as industry groups. Just as our members are on the forefront of energy generating sources of the future like wind and solar technologies, we are committed to lessening the impact of fossil fuel generation. This legislation is key to mitigating the harmful effects of climate change.

In addition to reducing carbon emissions, S. 1535 would also create new high paying jobs and stimulate our economy. I respectfully urge Congress to renew and improve Section 45Q by enacting S. 1535.

Sincerely yours,

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

LRS:lgd

Copy to All Members of the United States Senate Committee on Finance