



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS®**

900 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202.833.7000
www.ibew.org

LONNIE R. STEPHENSON
International President

KENNETH W. COOPER
International
Secretary-Treasurer

February 27, 2019

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment
and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on
Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies
(USE IT) Act**

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

On behalf of the approximately 775,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I am writing to express my support for federal legislation to facilitate the research and development of carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) and S. 383, the Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies (USE IT) Act.

The IBEW represents hundreds of thousands of members who work in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity in all 50 states. Our members are committed to ensuring communities in the United States can rely on a safe and resilient source of electricity while protecting our communities and natural resources from environmental degradation and climate change. IBEW 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.

There is consensus among energy and climate experts, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA), that CCUS technology is an essential tool in the effort to reduce carbon emissions, which is necessary to avoid the worst effects of climate change, while supporting energy security, protecting the existing energy infrastructure, and retaining and creating high-quality, family-supporting jobs that are critical to working families and communities.

The IBEW supports many of the policies proposed in the USE IT Act, including the creation of financial incentives for innovators to develop direct air capture technology, as well as clarification that CCUS projects and carbon dioxide pipelines are eligible for expedited permitting review established under the FAST Act. These policies, if enacted, will accelerate the development and deployment of CCUS technology and position the United States as a leader in this important field.

IBEW commends the leadership of Chairman Barrasso, Ranking Member Carper, and the other co-sponsors of the USE IT Act for coming together in



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS®**

Mr. John Barrasso and Mr. Tom Carper
February 27, 2019
Page 2

bipartisan manner to introduce this legislation, which we hope will build on the success of the FUTURE Act and help retain and create thousands of jobs.

The IBEW looks forward to working with the United States Senate and the EPW Committee in finding solutions that will best balance our nation's economic, environmental and security needs.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lonnie R. Stephenson".
Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

LRS:slv
Copy to All Members of the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works