

September 18, 2020

Dear Members of Congress:

We urge you to oppose the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act (HR 4447). Any benefits from the critical steps to support environmental justice in the proposed legislation are undermined by provisions encouraging carbon capture sequestration (CCS) and other false climate solutions that perpetuate our dependence on fossil fuels and the burden on frontline and communities of color. What we need is a transformative vision, not one that simply repeats our mistakes of the past.

From beginning to end, fossil fuels disproportionately impact low-income communities as well as Black, Brown and Indigenous communities through drilling, pipelines and combustion at power plants and refineries. Every corner of our country is feeling the impacts of fossil fuel-driven climate change, from wildfires raging in the western states and hurricanes in the Gulf Coast to flooding across the Midwest and droughts and heatwaves throughout the country, and marginalized communities continue to be disproportionately impacted.

Instead of confronting these issues head on, the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act on ineffective gimmicks. There is no reason to believe that CCS technology will actually work, given the failures of existing projects in this sector. For instance, the highly touted, heavily subsidized billion-dollar Petra Nova CCS project in Texas was just shuttered, largely because it performed well below expectations.

Worse yet, these CCS facilities can increase harmful particulate matter in environmental justice communities, and increase energy costs for the public. Given the fact that clean energy from the sun and wind is on par with or cheaper than fossil fuels all over the United States, and has zero emissions, there is no need to support building any new fossil fuel infrastructure.

Despite the hype about carbon capture's role in achieving 'net zero' emissions, the carbon captured from fossil fuel smokestacks is largely destined for United States oil fields for a process called enhanced oil recovery. Oil drillers pump captured CO2 into the earth in order to increase the amount of oil they can pump out of wells, which simply furthers the dirty energy footprint of CCS.

We cannot perpetuate false solutions to the climate crisis that keep our reliance on fossil fuels--as this legislation proposes to do--and have any hope of ending the climate or environmental justice crises brought about by dirty energy. We hope we can count on you to stand against this legislation and embrace policies that will truly support a just and equitable transition to clean renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Center for Biological Diversity

Climate Hawks Vote

Food & Water Action

Friends of the Earth

Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program

Oil Change International

Progressive Democrats of America

350.org

