United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 21, 2025

The Honorable John Kennedy
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Kennedy, Chair Murkowski, Chair Moran, Ranking Member Murray, Ranking Member Merkley, and Ranking Member Van Hollen:

We write to thank the Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittees on Energy and Water, Interior-Environment, and Commerce, Justice and Science for prioritizing carbon dioxide sequestration and removal (CDR) during the fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations process.

As you develop the FY 2026 Energy and Water, Interior-Environment, and Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bills, we urge you to provide robust funding for programs at the Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that support CDR projects and research. There is a history of strong bipartisan support for development and deployment of carbon capture, utilization, and storage technologies that will reduce carbon emissions. The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report emphasizes the need to use all tools available, including CDR technologies, to achieve net-zero emissions by mid-century.

CDR technologies that remove pollution from the air and mitigate the damage to the planet need steady and consistent investment to reach a commercially viable scale. We request you provide the following funding to support the removal, utilization, and sequestration of carbon:

- $383,000,000 for research, development, and demonstration of CDR technologies and approaches at DOE. This is to be coordinated between DOE's Office of Fossil Energy

and Carbon Management, Office of Science, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and any other relevant program offices or agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Agriculture, and should support development of a diversified suite of technologies and methods to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and durably store it.

  - Within the amount provided, $40,000,000 should go towards the continuation of DOE's competitive carbon dioxide removal pilot prize, matching the FY25 Senate appropriations bill. The Committee should direct in report language that these funds be used for purchasing efforts started by the Carbon Dioxide Removal Purchase Pilot Prize that the Secretary was directed to establish in the FY23 Energy and Water joint explanatory statement, consistent with Division D of Public Law 117-328. In carrying out this section, the Committee should support the Secretary's prioritization of multiple carbon removal technology pathways and emphasize methods that minimize removal reversibility and maximize storage duration.
  - Within the amount provided, $10,000,000 should go to develop measurement, monitoring, reporting, and verification (MMRV) tools and accounting frameworks to ensure transparency, accountability, and credibility in carbon removal projects. Robust accounting and monitoring systems enable the establishment of standardized protocols and methodologies, facilitating comparability and scalability across different CDR projects, thereby fostering a conducive environment for wide-scale innovation and deployment of carbon removal technologies.

- $6,200,000 for EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water and their Underground Injection Program related to Class VI wells for geologic sequestration. This matches FY24 appropriated levels. Funding is critical as we increase safe, durable geologic storage of carbon dioxide.
- $25,000,000 to NOAA to support research and development of diverse ocean-based CDR approaches. We encourage the Committee to recommend that NOAA continue to coordinate ocean CDR research activities across the agency and with other agencies, including efforts to advance ocean-based CDR research planning. This funding should support research on ocean CDR approaches to expand the knowledge base around their efficacy and impacts; adoption of a research code of conduct, based on existing code of conduct efforts, for recipients of federal funding; and transparency and timely data sharing with regard to data collected as part of this research effort, including to the extent possible, data gathered through public-private partnership research efforts.

We thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

John Hickenlooper
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator