

For Immediate Release
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CURC Applauds Introduction of the FUTURE Act

The Carbon Utilization Research Council (CURC) applauds Senators Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) on the introduction of the Furthering carbon capture, Utilization, Technology, Underground Storage, and Reduced Emissions Act (FUTURE Act). This legislation will reform, enhance and expand upon the current Section 45Q tax credit for carbon sequestration to provide a viable path forward for carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) technologies. As an industry coalition focused on technology solutions for the responsible use of our fossil energy resources, CURC is happy to support the bill and urges the Senate to move forward with this important legislation.

“U.S. leadership is needed to advance carbon capture to commercial scale, which is essential to the world’s environmental goals. This legislation has broad support from both sides of the aisle and is a positive step toward creating policy parity for use of carbon capture over time in the energy and industrial sectors,” says Michael Flannigan, CURC Co-Chair and Senior Vice President for Global Government Affairs, Peabody Energy.

The Section 45Q tax credit is currently available to taxpayers that capture qualified CO₂ at a qualified facility and dispose of the CO₂ in secure geological storage. However, the financial uncertainty created by a cap on the credit, in addition to the insufficient credit amount, prevents developers from accessing the capital necessary to finance CCUS projects. The FUTURE Act would increase the value of the Section 45Q credit, lift the cap for new projects, address the needs of difference business models and approaches, and fully incorporate utilization beyond enhanced oil recovery.

Barbara Walz, CURC Co-Chair and Senior Vice President for Policy and Compliance with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, indicates that *“the current Section 45Q tax credit is limited and does not meet the needs of the entities that are best positioned to utilize it, including utilities that want to maintain and grow coal as part of their energy portfolio. While CCUS has been established for some industrial processes, it is still a relatively expensive technology that is just being tested in commercial-scale power projects. That’s why it’s critical that the federal government continue to support CCUS technology development and deployment. The FUTURE Act will be an important first step in helping to bring down the costs of commercial-scale CCUS power generation projects.”*

CURC applauds Senators Heitkamp, Capito and Whitehouse for introducing a bill to expand the Section 45Q tax credit, which follows introduction of similar legislation in the 114th Congress which also had bipartisan support including 11 Democratic cosponsors and 8 Republican cosponsors. The substantial interest on both sides of the aisle to promote CCUS demonstrates the fact that CCUS technologies can help us improve our economy and energy security, while also safeguarding the environment and mitigating the impact of CO₂ emissions on climate change.

“Members of our coalition recognize this effort would not be possible without the leadership of Senators Heitkamp, Capito and Whitehouse in pulling together the unique coalition of bipartisan support for this bill,” states Shannon Angielski, Executive Director of CURC, *“this legislation will lead the growing support in the 115th Congress for the enactment of policies to accelerate CCUS technology development and deployment.”*