

Opposition testimony to HB 170 - Establish process to regulate carbon capture, storage technology

Chair Jones, Vice Chair Robb Blasdel, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Ohio House Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Patricia Marida and I live in Columbus. Thank you for allowing me to speak today in opposition to HB 170. I have arranged my comments as a listing of 8 concerns with this legislation.

#1 A FALSE SOLUTION: Carbon capture and sequestration (or CCS) is a false solution to carbon dioxide pollution and the resulting global overheating. Protecting our climate is a serious issue that needs real solutions. Real solutions are energy sources that don't create carbon dioxide (or CO₂), not sources like natural gas or coal that create CO₂ and then attempt a "cleanup". Afterwards, when the money has been made by limited liability corporations, corporations gone out of business, or corporations challenging responsibility. The public will be left to deal with the long-term consequences.

#2 EXPENSIVE: Ohio needs to use less of increasingly expensive natural gas and coal, not an excuse to continue using these outdated and unsustainable fuels. The expense of the CCS process is unjustified, only increasing the cost of natural gas. Increased prices hurt us all and hurt low-income people the most, which is part of an energy source becoming unsustainable. **Building pipelines to transport CO₂** damages the earth, is incredibly expensive, and creates more CO₂.

#3 UNSCALEABLE: [Reuters notes that as of a year and a half ago](#), there were 42 CCS projects in the world, ***capturing only 0.13% of CO₂ emissions***. CCS projects in Norway and Canada have been paused for financial reasons. CCS is nowhere close to be significantly scaled up, and almost certainly will never be significant.

#4 COMING TO AN END: Geologists are warning that deep well hydrologic fracturing, called "fracking" for short, is soon coming to an end in both Ohio and the U.S. This is because most of the natural gas that is obtainable from our shale using this extreme method has already been extracted. Attempts to extract more will be prohibitively expensive, if not impossible. Coal continues to decline.

#5 LOST OPPORTUNITY COST: HB 170 is a waste of time and energy. Wasting time is called lost opportunity cost, when real, tested, safer and cheaper-by-the-day renewable energy sources like wind and solar are in competition.

#6 UNWORKABLE AND UNSAFE: Carbon dioxide gas under immense pressure will eventually escape from underground. Cracks in the rock, earth movement, and gas and oil wells are readily available conduits to the surface. Ohio has tens of thousands of abandoned and unmapped oil and gas wells. Unseen, undetectable leaks can cause suffocation of people and animals such as the incident in Satartia, Mississippi in 2020. Earthquakes are also a release risk. CO₂ reacts with moisture in the air to form carbonic acid, which is toxic to inhale.

#7 HB 170 IS A CORPORATE SUBSIDY, UNDERCUTTING PUBLIC WILL: HB 170 undercuts existing public controls. This props up and even makes possible otherwise unprofitable and unpopular endeavors.

H.B. 170 would allow carbon storage developers to evade long-term responsibility for their projects using a **"liability transfer"**. This clause allows developers to walk away from projects and any long-term consequences or emergency response mandates, incentivizing companies to cut corners on well construction, maintenance, and monitoring.

HB 170 would give the Ohio Department of Natural Resources exclusive authority to regulate CO2 injection wells, *taking away the rights of local governments* to make these decisions on behalf of their constituents.

Last but not least, H.B. 170 would allow companies to store carbon dioxide beneath Ohioans' properties *without our consent*. Companies need to obtain only 70% of landowners' consent before forcing other landowners in an arbitrary section to have CO2 injected under their properties.

#8 **WHAT ABOUT THE FREE MARKET?** A free market isn't free when some competitors are given an advantage by the state. By shortchanging innovative, sustainable, less expensive energy sources, Ohioans will continue paying higher energy bills. Jobs in renewable industries, like wind and solar, which are expanding in other states and around the world, aren't coming to Ohio.

Renewable energy has a precise definition: once the infrastructure is built, the fuel is free. This includes wind, solar, geothermal, tidal, and hydropower. *Jobs in renewable energy are far safer for workers and the public, and they don't emit carbon dioxide.*

I join the many Ohioans who are opposed to having our legislature enact a bill of this nature.

Thank you.