

Written Testimony of Jan Nesor, PhD  
**HB170 Establish process to regulate carbon capture, storage technology**  
State of Ohio  
Natural Resources Committee  
May 6, 2025

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

My name is Jan Nesor, and I am a professor of Education Policy at the Ohio State University. I do not represent Ohio State, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to HB170.

I write to urge you to reject HB170. Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) has been used for some time now in a wide range of contexts and its problems are well-established.

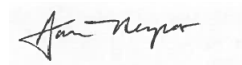
1. “CCS” is misleading terminology. Although the phrase “carbon capture and storage” might be taken to imply some net reduction in the amount of carbon in the atmosphere, CCS has an extremely poor track record at carbon removal – major projects have been found to **emit more carbon than they capture**.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, the present case, the most likely reason for CCS in an Ohio context would be for its use in enhanced oil recovery. This is in fact a carbon intensifier technology.
2. CCS is a risky technology. **Leaks** from facilities and pipelines have injured and sickened communities around the country.<sup>2</sup> The time and research required to carry out adequate site characterization (to insure the geological stability of the pore) is not addressed in the legislation.<sup>3</sup>
3. The proposed legislation creates an **undemocratic** process. In spite of the local risks, local communities do not have a voice in the process. Indeed, as the Legislative Budget Office analysis points out, the

“bill prohibits the Director or a local government from exercising [the authority granted to local governments under the laws governing the care, supervision, and control of public roads, grounds, and bridges] ‘in a manner that discriminates against, unfairly impedes, or obstructs carbon sequestration projects’ regulated under the bill.”<sup>4</sup>

“Obstructs ... projects” means essentially that local governments can’t do anything. A minimum of decency would give communities some say over projects that have severe demonstrated risks.

Again, I urge the committee to reject the proposed legislation, which reinforces dependence on fossil fuels at the cost of increased risks to communities and loss of local sovereignty.

Sincerely,



Jan Nesor

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.globalwitness.org/documents/20314/Hydrogens\\_Hidden\\_Emissions\\_January2022.pdf](https://www.globalwitness.org/documents/20314/Hydrogens_Hidden_Emissions_January2022.pdf),  
<https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/the-carbon-capture-scam/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2023/05/21/1172679786/carbon-capture-carbon-dioxide-pipeline>,  
<https://lailluminator.com/2024/05/01/carbon-dioxide-leak/>, <https://www.nprillinois.org/illinois/2024-10-21/the-nations-first-commercial-carbon-sequestration-plant-is-in-illinois-it-leaks>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-false-promise-of-carbon-capture-as-a-climate-solution/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov//download?key=24943>, p. 8