

Oppose the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act

September 23, 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 relies 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,

198 methods
350 Colorado
350 Massachusetts for Better Future
350 PDX
350 Silicon Valley
350 Triangle
350.org
Action Collaborative for the
Transforming Spirit Now
Albina Avenue Caucus
Already Devalued and Devastated
Homeowners of Parsippany
Animals Are Sentient Beings
Anthropocene Alliance
Aquamarine Studio
Athens County's Future Action Network
Avoid Disposables and Plastic Trash
(ADAPT)
Berks Gas Truth
Better Path Coalition
Breast Cancer Action
Bucks Environmental Action
Build A Movement 2020
Call to Action Colorado
Catholic Divestment Network
Catholic Network US
Center for Biological Diversity
Church Women United in New York
State
Citizens United for Renewable Energy
Clean Energy Action — Colorado
Clean Energy Now Texas
Climate Hawks Vote
Climate Justice Alliance
Coalition Against the Pilgrim Pipeline —
New Jersey
Coalition for Outreach, Policy, &
Education
Coalition to Protect New York
Coalition to Reroute Nexus
Common Ground Community Trust
Compressor Free Franklin
Connecticut Citizen Action Group
Crushing Colonialism
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
Don't Gas the Pinelands Coalition

Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition
Earth Action, Inc
Eco-Poetry.org
EcoEquity
Endangered Species Coalition
Energy Justice Network
Environmental Interest Circle, First
Unitarian Society of Ithaca
Extinction Rebellion SF Bay
First Universal Society of Ithaca
Food & Water Action
Fossil Free Tompkins
FracTracker Alliance
Franciscan Action Network
Friends of Buckingham
Friends of the Earth
Frontera Water Protection Alliance
Gas Free Seneca
Generation Green
Global Witness
Green Sanctuary, Unitarian Universalist
Church of Reading
GreenFaith
GreenLatinos
Hazon
Indigenous Environmental Network
Indivisible
Indivisible Cayuga County
Institute for Policy Studies Climate
Policy Program
Jewish Climate Action Network
Massachusetts
John Muir Project
League of Women Voters
Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
Marcellus Outreach Butler
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance
National Children's Campaign
Nature Coast Conservation
Nature Conservation Advocates for
Climate Initiative
Neighborhood Tree Health
New Energy Economy
New Jersey Tenants Organization

New York Communities for Change
No Coal UNC
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Oil Change International
Our Water Our Air Our Rights
Partnership for Policy Integrity
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
People for a Healthy Environment
People's Action
Peoples Climate Movement — New York
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Pennsylvania
Plymouth Friends for Clean Water
Preserve Giles County
Progressive Democrats of America
Progressives for Positive Change
Public Citizen
Publish What You Pay-US
Rapid Shift
Resist the Pipeline
Resonant Energy
River Guardian Foundation

River Valley Organizing
Rock Your World of Creative Visions
RootsAction.org
Seeding Sovereignty
Seventh Generation
SoCal 350 Climate Action
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion
Sunflower Alliance
Sunrise
Sunrise El Paso
Sustainable Tompkins, Inc.
Take Back the Grid
The Climate Center
The Climate Mobilization
The River Project
Transition Town Glassboro
Upper Uwchlan Residents For Safety
Virginia Citizens Consumer Council
Waters without Borders
WISE Maryland
Womens March Central Gulf Coast
Zero Hour