Our Mission
Protecting Our Legacy
Building Our Future

31st Constitutional Convention, Las Vegas, NV

Support for Carbon Capture Use and Storage

WHEREAS, To minimize the loss of jobs and harm to the economy, all reasonable options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions must be pursued to meet mandated emission targets. Grid reliability and reasonable energy costs require the use of both nuclear power and Carbon Capture Use and Storage (CCUS) technology; and

WHEREAS, CCUS technologies catch carbon dioxide emissions and quarantine those emissions by piping them into the ground, either for the purpose of extracting oil and gas or for storage. CCUS technology enables the large-scale decarbonization of coal-fired and gas fired power plants and holds the potential to change the economics of these and other energy-intensive industries; and

WHEREAS, In recent decades, industry and governments have achieved significant milestones in advancing CCUS technologies. There are now 18 large-scale CCUS facilities operating around the world and, to date, 220 million tons of anthropogenic CO2 have been safely stored below ground. However, the pace of development and deployment must rapidly accelerate if CCUS is to achieve its potential in reducing greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing job creation and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, The UWUA has been a leading labor voice in support of CCUS, and an important advocate in the 2018 passage of the bipartisan FUTURE act. The law provides tax credit to companies that successfully deploy CCUS. The FUTURE Act provides needed financial certainty for private investors and developers of carbon capture projects by lifting the current cap on available 45Q credits and increasing their value for each ton of CO2 captured and safely stored or put to beneficial use; and

WHEREAS, We are on target for the significant deployment of CCUS technology by 2040, but realizing that goal requires continued R&D (research and development) and other federal investments, tax incentives, smart regulations, and additional policies that harness market forces; and

WHEREAS, In order to utilize CCUS for power plants, pipelines transporting carbon dioxide emissions are needed. A lack of pipeline infrastructure is a critical challenge to the large-scale deployment of CCUS technology.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The UWUA urges Congress to pass the bipartisan Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies Act, or the USE IT Act to encourage carbon emissions reduction projects. The bill would complement the recent expansion of (CCUS) tax credits by fostering increased collaboration between governmental and non-governmental entities involved in the construction and development of CCUS facilities and carbon dioxide (CO2) pipelines. The bill would improve the permitting process for CCUS infrastructure projects and establish technology prizes to spur innovation in projects to capture CO2 directly from the atmosphere. The USE IT Act builds on 2018's FUTURE Act; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, The UWUA calls on federal and state authorities to identify, analyze and evaluate opportunities for pipeline corridors to transport industrial and power plant CO2 for beneficial use and permanent storage.