

July 22, 2021

Legislative Finance Committee of New Mexico  
Roundhouse Building, State Capitol  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

RE: Agenda Item "Carbon Sequestration at Power Plants in New Mexico"

Dear Members of the Legislative Finance Committee of New Mexico,

We the undersigned write to inform the NM Legislative Finance Committee of our concerns on projects relating to Carbon Sequestration, Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS), and other untested and energy investments the state is seeking to implement. Instead, the state's focus should remain on financing the clean up and remediation of abandoned and orphaned wells and the San Juan Generating Station and mine sites. This would both move us towards a cleaner environment, a sustainable economy and generate a state-wide workforce economy focused on healing the land and our communities' health instead of creating an unsustainable economic dependence on CCS, CCUS, and other carbon sequestration projects. Real clean-up and green renewable energy solutions are championed by Indigenous and locally-led organizations who have been impacted by existing power plants and resource extraction. As a coalition, we stand firm against carbon markets that promote false solutions toward climate mitigation.

While we appreciate efforts to meet the climate and energy goals outlined in the New Mexico Energy Transition Act (ETA) projects like CCUS, especially in the case of San Juan Generating Station, are a step in the wrong direction. Carbon Sequestration, including all Storage and capture projects will not decrease carbon emissions because they create a market dependency on the emissions. These Carbon projects are risky due to costs and dubious assumptions about the environmental benefits. The science is still largely untested. NM's citizens should not have to pay for such an expensive gamble, especially when we are moving in the right direction toward true renewable energy.

Thank you for the consideration,

*Diné Citizens Against Ruining our Environment (Diné C.A.R.E.)*

*Diné No Nukes*

*Earth Care*

*International Indigenous Youth Council, New Mexico*

*NAVA Education Project (NAVAEP)*

*New Energy Economy*

*Pueblo Action Alliance*

*Tewa Women United*  
*Youth United for Climate Crisis Action (YUCCA)*

CC:

Senator George K. Munoz (District 4) Chair

Senator Nancy Rodriguez (District 24) Vice Chair

Senator William E. Sharer (District 1) Ranking Member

Senator William F. Burt (District 33) Member

Senator Pete Campos (District 8) Member

Senator Jacob R. Candelaria (District 26) Member

Senator Crystal R. Diamond (District 35) Member

Senator Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales (District 6) Member

Senator Siah Correa Hemphill (District 28) Member

Senator Jeff Steinborn (District 36) Member

Senator Pat Woods (District 7) Member