



Industrial Energy Consumers of America
The Voice of the Industrial Energy Consumers

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February 24, 2010

The Honorable Timothy Geithner
The Honorable Peter Orszag
The Honorable Steven Chu
The Honorable Eric Holder
The Honorable Ken Salazar
The Honorable Tom Vilsack

The Honorable Ray LaHood
The Honorable Gary Locke
The Honorable John Holdren
The Honorable Jon Wellinghoff
The Honorable Lisa Jackson
The Honorable Nancy Sutley

Re: Interagency Task Force on Carbon Capture and Storage

Dear Members of the Administration:

On behalf of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA), we applaud the effort by President Obama to create an Interagency Task Force on Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). It is important to keep coal in the US energy supply mix and to seek ways to reduce its environmental impact. As you do so, it is very important to recognize that the manufacturing sector also uses coal and should not only be included in the strategy and programs that will be developed by the Task Force, but placed as a priority.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$900 billion in annual sales and with more than 850,000 employees nationwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through research, advocacy, and collaboration for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: plastics, cement, paper, food processing, brick, chemicals, fertilizer, insulation, steel, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, aluminum and brewing.

As shown by MIT and others, industrial gasification projects with CCS are the most cost-effective near-term opportunities to demonstrate CCS at commercial scale. Such projects have already been competitively selected by DOE for cost-sharing, tax credits and loan guarantees. As a priority, the DOE should evaluate remaining regulatory barriers and gaps and move aggressively to negotiate financial closure for these projects.

Manufacturing companies use coal as both a fuel and feedstock. Fuel and feedstock diversity is important for long-term manufacturing competitiveness. For some manufacturers a switch to natural gas would be cost prohibitive. We must find cost effective technological solutions for manufacturing to continue use of coal and CCS is potentially a solution.

Our member companies would be happy to meet with you to discuss this subject more in-depth. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio
President