It’s Time to End Carbon Capture of Climate Policy
An Open Letter to US and Canadian Leaders

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do of our millions of members and supporters across the United States and Canada, we call on you to recognize that carbon capture and storage (CCS) is not a climate solution. It is a dangerous distraction driven by the same big polluters who created the climate emergency.

CCS is unnecessary. Renewable energy sources like solar and wind are cheaper and cleaner than fossil fuels. CCS just makes dirty energy more expensive and more energy-intensive.

CCS does not work. CCS projects have systematically overpromised and under-delivered. Despite the billions of taxpayer dollars wasted on CCS to date, the technology has not made a dent in CO2 emissions.

CCS will do little to reduce industrial emissions. Deploying CCS at scale is not economically viable for most heavy-emitting industries, such as plastic and chemical manufacturing. It diverts resources from available and scalable alternatives such as replacing fossil fuels with clean energy sources to supply power and heat, and reusing inputs to reduce the production of virgin material.

CCS makes dirty energy even more dangerous for communities. Fossil fuel companies with carbon capture technology have to burn more fossil fuel to get the same energy output, resulting in increased emissions of toxic and hazardous pollutants, like fine particulates (PM2.5).

CCS imposes even more risks on communities from CO2 pipelines and storage. Transporting, injecting, and storing CO2 presents new environmental, health, and safety hazards in communities. Pumping even more public funds into CCS will just prop up unsustainable business models.

We don’t need to fund fossil fuels; we need to ditch them. Instead of capturing carbon to pump it back underground, we should keep fossil fuels in the ground in the first place. And instead of bankrolling CCS, we should be boosting sustainable, job-creating solutions to the climate crisis for fossil-dependent workers and communities: phasing out oil, gas, and coal; investing in energy efficiency and non-combustion renewable energy sources; and protecting forests and other ecosystems that naturally capture and store carbon.

It’s time for decision-makers to abandon the dirty, dangerous myth of CCS. We call on you to:

Stop subsidizing CCS. Stop permitting CCS. Stop using public funds to prop up dirty energy operations that are dangerous for the climate and communities. Pumping even more public funds into CCS for petrochemical industries will just prop up unsustainable business models.

This ad is paid for by the Center for International Environmental Law, a non-profit organization that uses the power of law to protect the environment, promote human rights, and ensure a just and sustainable society. For a complete copy of the open letter to policymakers and to learn more about CCS visit: https://www.ciel.org/CarbonCaptureAndStorage