

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

RESOLUTION ON CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE POLICY

WHEREAS, Congress and the Obama Administration is considering climate legislation aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050;

WHEREAS, carbon dioxide is a gas that occurs naturally in the environment as a result of biological processes;

WHEREAS, carbon dioxide is released during combustion of any carbon-containing material, including coal, natural gas, oil and wood, all of which exist in abundance in the United States and are foundational in our nation's energy economy;

WHEREAS, while the science of global climate change is still evolving, it is prudent and appropriate to allow for the cost effective capture and storage of carbon dioxide in geologic formations as an alternative to its release into the air;

WHEREAS, carbon dioxide is a valuable commodity to the citizens of the U.S., including its value in enhancing the recovery of oil and gas;

WHEREAS, pursuing all options for reducing GHG emissions will be required in order to meet targets while also minimizing the adverse economic affects;

WHEREAS, the economies of individual states and of the nation as a whole are dependent on electricity from coal and on natural gas fired electricity generating plants that both emit carbon dioxide;

WHEREAS, the United States has several hundred years worth of coal and natural gas reserves that can be used to electrify our nation if appropriate GHG emission issues are successfully addressed;

WHEREAS, storage of carbon dioxide in geological formations is widely believed to be an effective and feasible strategy for managing emissions over long periods of time, which benefits the environment and citizens alike;

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Council of State Governments supports each state developing policies supporting the capture, injection and underground storage of carbon dioxide while addressing issues such as experimental permits, trust funds to administer programs, and long-term liability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of State Governments urges Congress and the Administration to act in close partnership with state governments and to support and supplement their policies to capture, inject, store underground and withdraw carbon dioxide for beneficial reuse or sale; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of State Governments strongly urges Congress and the Administration to support state efforts to store or find beneficial uses for carbon dioxide emissions by providing additional funding and incentives for research into carbon capture and storage technologies and underground storage capacities.

Adopted this 18th Day of May, 2009 at the CSG Spring Conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.



Governor Joe Manchin III, West Virginia
2009 CSG President



Sen. Bart Davis, Idaho
2009 CSG Chair