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**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**LOUISIANA UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PROGRAM  
CLASS VI PRIMACY PROPOSED RULE**

**JUNE 23, 2023**



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1           **UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
2                           **PUBLIC HEARING**  
3           **LOUISIANA UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PROGRAM**  
4                           **CLASS VI PRIMACY PROPOSED RULE**  
5                           **JUNE 23, 2023**

7                   **(On record at 9:00 a.m.)**

8           **MR. JOHNSON:** Let's go on the record.

9                   Good morning, and welcome to day three of  
10 EPA Region 6 hearing on LDNR Class VI primacy. My  
11 name is Ken Johnson, and I am groundwater and  
12 underground injection control section supervisor at  
13 EPA Region 6 in Dallas, Texas. Before we begin  
14 taking testimony today, I will provide background  
15 information and a summary of the proposed action.

16                   With me today from EPA Region 6 are Ian  
17 Ussery, who is seated up here at the front on my  
18 right, and Brody Friesenhahn, who will be working  
19 the door to the room. Both are geologists in the  
20 UIC section. Lisa Pham at the registration table,  
21 UIC engineer. Chad Larsen, environmental justice  
22 liaison in the Office of Environmental Justice,  
23 Tribal and International Affairs. Evelyn Rosborough  
24 is also at the registration table, from our NPDS  
25 section. And from the Office of Regional Counsel,

1 our hearing officer, who is seated directly to my  
2 right, Armando Armendariz.

3 Today's hearing concerns EPA's proposed  
4 approval of a revision to Louisiana Safe Drinking  
5 Water Act Section 1422 UIC program, to include Class  
6 VI injection well primary enforcement  
7 responsibility, referred to as "primacy." The  
8 proposed revision would allow the Louisiana  
9 Department of Natural Resources, or LDNR, to issue  
10 UIC permits for geologic carbon sequestration  
11 facilities as Class VI wells, and ensure compliance  
12 of Class VI wells under the UIC program. EPA  
13 proposes to issue a final rule approving Louisiana's  
14 application to implement the UIC program for Class  
15 VI injection wells located within state, except  
16 those on Indian lands.

17 The UIC Class VI program was created under  
18 the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. This statute  
19 protects public health by regulating the nation's  
20 public drinking water supply, including both surface  
21 and groundwater sources. The Safe Drinking Water  
22 Act requires EPA to develop requirements and  
23 provisions for the state and tribal underground  
24 injection control, or, as we refer to it, UIC.  
25 These UIC programs regulate the injection of fluids

1 to protect underground sources of drinking water.  
2 Safe Drinking Water Act Section 1422 directs EPA to  
3 establish requirements that states, territories, and  
4 federally recognized tribes must meet to be granted  
5 primary enforcement responsibility, or primacy, for  
6 implementing the UIC program, including a Class VI  
7 program.

8 A state applicant seeking primacy for the  
9 Class VI program must demonstrate to EPA that the  
10 state Class VI program is as stringent as the  
11 federal requirements, and is protective of  
12 underground sources of drinking water, also referred  
13 to as USDWs, among other requirements. The UIC Class  
14 VI program, which regulates injection of carbon  
15 dioxide into deep rock formations for purposes of  
16 long-term underground storage, provides multiple  
17 safeguards that can work together to protect USDWs  
18 and human health. Owners or operators that wish to  
19 inject carbon dioxide for the purpose of geologic  
20 sequestration must demonstrate that their injection  
21 well meets all regulatory requirements to receive a  
22 Class VI permit for each well. The UIC Class VI  
23 program requires applicants to meet strict  
24 technical, financial, and managerial requirements to  
25 obtain a Class VI permit. These program components

1 include the following parts:

2           One. Site characterization. Site  
3 characterization ensures the geology in the project  
4 area will contain the carbon dioxide within the zone  
5 where it will be injected.

6           Two. Area of review. Area of review  
7 modeling delineates the predicted area influenced by  
8 injection activities throughout the lifetime of  
9 operation.

10           Three. Evaluation of the delineated area  
11 to ensure all potential pathways for fluid movement  
12 have been identified and addressed through  
13 corrective action.

14           Four. Well construction requirements.  
15 These requirements ensure that the Class VI  
16 injection well will not leak carbon dioxide.

17           Five. Testing and monitoring throughout  
18 the life of the project, including after carbon  
19 dioxide injection has ended. Requirements include,  
20 for example, testing to ensure mechanical, physical  
21 integrity of the well, monitoring for seismic  
22 activity near the injection site, monitoring of  
23 injection pressure and flow, chemical analysis of  
24 the carbon dioxide stream that is being injected,  
25 and monitoring the extent of the injected carbon

1 dioxide plume and the surrounding area, such as  
2 groundwater, to ensure that the carbon dioxide is  
3 contained as predicted.

4 Six. Operating requirements to ensure  
5 injection activity will not endanger USDWs or human  
6 health.

7 Seven. Financial assurance mechanisms  
8 sufficient to cover the costs for all phases of the  
9 geologic sequestration project, including the post-  
10 injection site care period, and until site closure  
11 has been approved by the permitting authority.

12 Eight. Emergency and remedial response  
13 plans.

14 Nine. Reporting of all testing and  
15 monitoring results to the permitting authority to  
16 ensure the well is operating in compliance with all  
17 permit and regulatory requirements.

18 The permitting authority ensures that  
19 these protective requirements are included in each  
20 Class VI permit. A draft of each Class VI permit is  
21 made available to the public for comment before a  
22 final permit is issued.

23 In addition to reviewing the state  
24 regulations to ensure they are at least as stringent  
25 as the Federal Rules I've just summarized, EPA also

1 evaluated Louisiana's Class VI program description,  
2 the Louisiana Attorney General's Statement of  
3 Enforcement Authority, and the addendum to the  
4 Memorandum of Agreement between EPA and Louisiana,  
5 describing the administration, implementation, and  
6 enforcement of Louisiana's Class VI program.

7           Finally, as part of developing this  
8 proposal, EPA worked with the State of Louisiana to  
9 incorporate environmental justice considerations  
10 into their primacy application. EPA reviewed  
11 Louisiana's environmental justice approach as  
12 described in the state's program description and  
13 Memorandum of Agreement addendum, and compared it to  
14 the environmental justice elements discussed in the  
15 December 9, 2022 letter from EPA to state governors.  
16 Louisiana committed, in its Memorandum of Agreement  
17 addendum, to adopt all the environmental justice  
18 elements described in the letter, including  
19 implementing an inclusive public participation  
20 process, incorporating environmental justice and  
21 civil rights considerations in the review process,  
22 enforcing Class VI regulatory protections, and  
23 incorporating mitigation measures.

24           Furthermore, Louisiana's program  
25 description specifies that LDNR will require well

1 owners or operators to conduct an environmental  
2 justice review as part of the Class VI application  
3 process, and the results of the review will be used  
4 by LDNR to determine if an enhanced public comment  
5 period will be required.

6 In closing, EPA conducted a comprehensive  
7 technical and legal evaluation of Louisiana's Class  
8 VI primacy application to assess and confirm that  
9 the state's UIC Class VI program is as stringent as  
10 the federal regulations. As a result of this  
11 comprehensive review, EPA is proposing to approve  
12 Louisiana's application, because EPA has determined  
13 that the application meets all applicable  
14 requirements for approval under Safe Drinking Water  
15 Act Section 1422, and the state is capable of  
16 administering a UIC Class VI program in a manner  
17 consistent with the terms and purposes of the Safe  
18 Drinking Water Act and all applicable UIC  
19 regulations.

20 For additional information on the proposed  
21 decision, you may review the proposed decision,  
22 located in the Federal Register. To review the  
23 application materials and the supporting documents,  
24 you may go to the rule-making docket website at the  
25 following link: [Regulations.gov/docket/EPA-](https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-)



1 headquarters-OW-2023-007 3/document.

2 And now, the hearing officer, Armando  
3 Armendariz, will explain the procedures for this  
4 public hearing.

5 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Good morning, everyone.  
6 Thank you all for coming to this public hearing.

7 My name is Armando Armendariz. I am an  
8 attorney for the Environmental Protection Agency,  
9 Region 6, Dallas, Texas. I am also the designated  
10 hearing officer for this public hearing. I will be  
11 responsible for developing the hearing record by  
12 taking your comments concerning the EPA's proposed  
13 actions. The EPA will consider the record of this  
14 hearing through its decision-making process. Note,  
15 however, that I do not participate in the making the  
16 final decision concerning the EPA's proposed  
17 actions, and I also do not have any influence in the  
18 permit process.

19 Before I go any further, in the event of  
20 an emergency, please exit the room either through  
21 the door to my left, or through the double doors at  
22 the back of the room. Once you go through the  
23 double doors, you will be able to exit the building  
24 through the glass doors to my left.

25 Now I would like to outline the procedures

1 for this public hearing. The procedures are rather  
2 simple and informal. However, this hearing must be  
3 conducted in an orderly manner that will allow the  
4 EPA to record all relevant and appropriate  
5 information related to the proposed action. Equally  
6 important, today's public hearing is not an  
7 evidentiary hearing or trial. There will be no  
8 direct or cross-examination of anyone. As a hearing  
9 officer, I may ask questions, but only for  
10 clarification for the hearing record. Otherwise,  
11 people making comments will not be questioned. This  
12 is not a forum for debate or argumentative  
13 exchanges, but rather, one for gathering facts and  
14 opinions relating to the proposed actions.

15 I understand that some of you are quite  
16 passionate about today's issues. But in order to  
17 fully understand and hear your comments, your  
18 statement must be focused and clear. As previously  
19 mentioned, EPA personnel will not be responding to  
20 any of your questions during today's hearing.  
21 Instead, the EPA will publish written responses to  
22 everyone's comments in the Federal Register that  
23 will include the agency's final decision on this  
24 matter.

25 I will be calling on people who have

1 registered to make comments. Based on the number of  
2 people who have signed up, I am setting a three-  
3 minute limit per speaker. This will ensure that  
4 everyone will be given an opportunity to be heard.  
5 People who have commented will not be allowed to  
6 speak again, even if time permits, and will be  
7 allowed to leave if they want to. When I call your  
8 name, please spell your name, and if you are  
9 representing an organization, please identify your  
10 organization.

11 Further, I must obtain a clear and  
12 uninterrupted record of this hearing, so please do  
13 not talk while others are speaking. The court  
14 reporter can only hear and record one person at a  
15 time. I would also ask you to please silence your  
16 cell phones.

17 After this public hearing record closes,  
18 the EPA will continue to accept written comments.  
19 Please note that the written comment period that  
20 began on May 4, 2023, ends in July 3rd, 2023.  
21 Written comments should be submitted by the methods  
22 described at the EPA's notice. In addition, written  
23 comments will be considered with the same weight as  
24 oral comments.

25 We have set up microphones where everyone

1 will speak. Mr. Ian Ussery will let you know when  
2 you have 30 seconds remaining by raising a yellow  
3 card, and will raise a red card when your time has  
4 ended. I will then ask the next person in line to  
5 please come forward.

6 I will now takes comments of people who  
7 have signed up to speak, beginning with Mr. Kevin  
8 Kelehan.

9 **KEVIN KELEHAN:** Thanks for having me. My  
10 name's Keven Kelehan. I was born, raised, and still  
11 call this great state, where the people, culture,  
12 and food is like no other place on earth, home. In  
13 the words of that famous movie, there's no place  
14 like home.

15 With that being said, I've been in the oil  
16 and gas industry over 40 years. I own my own  
17 oilfield service company for the last 23 years. I  
18 employ roughly a couple of dozen people, which is  
19 roughly two dozen families that depend on this  
20 industry. And I'm only one of many that depend on  
21 this industry. Not to mention all the other  
22 companies, their employees, that depend on this  
23 industry indirectly.

24 We urge you to approve the Class VI  
25 primacy for all the great people of this state,

1 along with the future great people that will be born  
2 or move here. The carbon capture technology is the  
3 future of this industry. It's nothing new to the  
4 state. We've been injecting the grounds with oil  
5 and saltwater injections, everything. So this is  
6 nothing new, except for the carbon capture. Without  
7 it, myself, employees, along with many others, will  
8 have to seek new careers if we don't go ahead with  
9 this, being it's the future of this nation. Our  
10 environment is important, and this is the key factor  
11 in keeping it clean for the future generations to  
12 come.

13 Thanks for having me and letting me -- and  
14 let's get this done. I'll leave you with four  
15 words: How about them Tigers.

16 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, sir.

17 Angelle Bradford? Vickie Boothe. Marilyn  
18 Morace. Clara Potter.

19 **CLARA POTTER:** Good morning. My name is  
20 Clara Potter. I'm a Louisiana resident and an  
21 attorney with the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic.  
22 I'm here today on behalf of our clients, the Sierra  
23 Club and the Lake Maurepas Preservation Society, to  
24 voice opposition to Louisiana's application for  
25 Class VI primacy.

1 First, a grant of primacy to Louisiana  
2 would not serve environmental justice. The impact  
3 of industry on Louisiana's EJ communities has been  
4 extensively documented over the past few days before  
5 this tribunal. But I want to emphasize two points  
6 today.

7 First, the recent legal actions of this  
8 state's executive branch suggests that the state  
9 cannot be trusted to reliably honor the requirements  
10 of environmental justice. Less than a month ago,  
11 the State of Louisiana sued the EPA over its Civil  
12 Rights Act Title VI disparate impact regulations.  
13 In that suit, the state called EPA's environmental  
14 justice priorities, and I quote, a "dystopian  
15 nightmare." How can this state be trusted with  
16 rigorous implementation of the EPA's environmental  
17 justice mandate when it is publicly fighting that  
18 very mandate in court?

19 Second, there is no clear mechanism in the  
20 current Louisiana program that would require LDNR to  
21 withhold a permit or force project changes if a  
22 proposed Class VI well had a negative impact on an  
23 environmental justice community. Newly passed state  
24 statute requires LDNR to consider the public trust  
25 duties in the permitting process, but historically,

1 LDNR makes no consideration of environmental justice  
2 in that analysis. And in fact, time and again,  
3 Louisiana courts have struck down LDNR's decisions  
4 for violating the public trust. The mentions of  
5 environmental justice in the program description  
6 fall far short of a mandate to change course if EJ  
7 communities are impacted by a project. Without a  
8 mechanism to require accountability to EJ  
9 communities, these assessments will do little more  
10 than pay lip service to environmental justice at a  
11 time when action is most urgently needed.

12           Additionally, Louisiana law is not as  
13 stringent as federal law. Louisiana law, even as  
14 recently revised, would release well owners and  
15 operators from liability after issuance of a  
16 certificate of completion. Our written comment will  
17 explain in detail how the various provisions of this  
18 law are in conflict with federal requirements, but I  
19 want to highlight today our concern with the  
20 incentives that this creates. The purported  
21 benefits of CCS are to keep carbon dioxide in the  
22 ground into perpetuity. And if we are to take  
23 seriously the claims that this is a tool to mitigate  
24 greenhouse gas reductions, these projects must  
25 account for indefinite timelines. Louisiana law does

1 not do this. Its liability exemptions signal to  
2 well owners and operators that they need only think  
3 on a 50-year timeline, which is incompatible both  
4 with federal law and the geologic realities of this  
5 technology.

6 Finally, I'd like to urge the EPA to  
7 consider LDEQ's recently released environmental  
8 self-audit law, which EPA has not considered in its  
9 application.

10 For the foregoing, and for many reasons  
11 expressed by other commenters, we oppose Class VI  
12 primacy.

13 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

14 Jason Bergeron?

15 **JASON BERGERON:** Good morning, ladies and  
16 gentlemen. My name is Jason Bergeron. I was born  
17 and raised in Houma, Louisiana. I'm a small  
18 business owner with several small businesses. The  
19 businesses I own specialize in telemedicine as  
20 relates to occupational medicine, business  
21 consulting, software development, and information  
22 technology. I like to hunt and fish. I also work  
23 in the community to support projects that revitalize  
24 the region as it relates to quality of life.

25 Small businesses make up 99.9 percent of



1 all businesses in the nation. Every small business  
2 in our region is connected directly to the success  
3 of the energy industry. Not only are the oil and  
4 gas service companies making a living off of oil and  
5 gas industry, but every doctor, restaurant, hardware  
6 store, mechanic shop, and professional service  
7 company, feeds their families as a result of the oil  
8 and gas revenues brought into the State of  
9 Louisiana. One in five jobs in Louisiana are  
10 related to the port system, which has heavy ties to  
11 the oil and gas industry. Our economic fight seems  
12 to always be related to the government trying to  
13 regulate us out of business. Louisiana is the only  
14 state in the south that has not been successful in  
15 growth in the last ten years, when the rest of the  
16 south is flourishing.

17 Louisiana has a history of developing and  
18 leading the charge for environmentally safe and  
19 innovative ways to work between oil and gas and the  
20 environment. Twenty percent of the nation's energy  
21 and seafood are provided through Louisiana. The  
22 reefs created from the oil and gas rigs being  
23 located in the Gulf are one of the main reasons that  
24 70 percent of the fish habitat in the country exist  
25 off the Louisiana coast, making us second in the

1 nation in seafood production.

2           The same people that work in the industry  
3 are the same people that are hunting and fishing in  
4 the same environment the industry exists. The last  
5 thing that any of us want is something affecting the  
6 quality of life we appreciate by living in and off  
7 the same area we work. I am part of a group  
8 developing ecotourism by creating a paddle trail in  
9 Terrebonne Parish to support the waterways. We are  
10 partnering with oil and gas companies to help  
11 sponsor projects like this.

12           As an American citizen struggling to  
13 return to a normal life, surviving one of the  
14 strongest storms to ever hit the country, I urge you  
15 to approve Louisiana's application for Class VI  
16 primacy, which will provide us another opportunity  
17 to get to work and rebuild our community to its  
18 glory days.

19           Thank you.

20           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

21           Lauren Godshall.

22           **LAUREN GODSHALL:** Good morning. My name  
23 is Lauren Godshall, G-O-D-S-H-A-L-L. I'm a  
24 Louisiana resident and an attorney with the Tulane  
25 Environmental Law Clinic. I'm here on behalf of my

1 clients, the Sierra Club and the Lake Maurepas  
2 Preservation Society. Thank you for this  
3 opportunity, and for the Live Streaming opportunity  
4 as well.

5 This hearing today is about whether DNR  
6 has submitted a complete and satisfactory  
7 application for the primacy of this new program. We  
8 don't believe it has. DNR's expectations in this  
9 application are unrealistic. It is not staffing up  
10 sufficiently in any way. DNR anticipates nine  
11 applications the first year, despite ten already  
12 pending applications before the EPA, which will be  
13 transferred over pursuant to the MOA. And there are  
14 known 27 estimated projects already in process  
15 throughout the state.

16 DNR's fiscal year 2023-2024 budget does  
17 not include hiring significant new positions, but it  
18 does anticipate spending \$2.5 million to hire third-  
19 party contractors, outsourcing nearly every single  
20 aspect of the permitting process, including site  
21 characterization, modeling, environmental justice,  
22 and risk analysis. DNR plans to outsource all of  
23 these key pieces of the program. Comparing this to  
24 the Texas primacy application, which is also in the  
25 pending process, Texas has already developed and

1 proven itself to have in-house geologists and  
2 engineers able to handle almost every aspect of its  
3 planned program. Louisiana has not.

4 Many of the comments we've heard over the  
5 past several days are concerned about jobs, whether  
6 or not preventing primacy will prevent jobs. This  
7 is a false paradigm. This decision today is not  
8 about whether CCS will come to Louisiana. It is  
9 about who will manage the CCS permitting program:  
10 EPA or DNR. And DNR is already spread too thin.

11 Our state legislative auditor has  
12 detailed, and I believe you've heard over the past  
13 few days, the growing orphaned wells disaster  
14 throughout the state, that continues to expand over  
15 time. DNR's most recent estimate says that it needs  
16 one -- no, \$125 million and over 20 years to address  
17 the known orphaned wells in the state. The -- DNR is  
18 now also going to be handling, and is handling, the  
19 leasing of in-state state waters for wind energy  
20 projects. Yet, in 2018, DNR had an estimated 311  
21 full-time equivalent employees, and next year it  
22 anticipates 314. It is not growing with these  
23 growing needs and with these growing programs. It  
24 is not treating this as a serious program, but  
25 planning to outsource everything.

1 We respectfully request a "no" to this  
2 application at this time. And we will also submit  
3 detailed written comments.

4 Thank you very much.

5 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

6 Lloyd Landry? Will Badame?

7 **WILL BADAME:** Good morning. My name is  
8 Will Badame. I live here in EBR Parish. I'm 56. I  
9 love the outdoors, I love the fishing here. Whether  
10 it's saltwater, freshwater, doesn't matter. Fishing,  
11 period. And I love driving my motorcycle all over  
12 the state, and I've seen some beautiful places. And  
13 I used -- I transferred here from Virginia in 1977.  
14 My dad is a outstanding chemical engineer. He has  
15 written many papers on environmental issues. And  
16 when he designed a plant, the most important thing  
17 was the environmental impact.

18 So -- and the plant that I work for, I  
19 mean it's very environmentally conscious. We do  
20 have deep well injections. But we need control over  
21 this, not the federal government. You know, let the  
22 state do what needs to be done. They will. They'll  
23 monitor the wells. Of course. And groundwater,  
24 drinking water. Depends on how far down you go with  
25 it.

1 But, you know, I've been in safety at the  
2 plant for 25-plus years, and a lot of it involves  
3 the environment. Especially on a hazmat call. You  
4 know, you have to do what you got to do to stop and  
5 and back up the, um -- whatever is leaking. Being  
6 in the industry and the environment, we are all  
7 aware of the need for reduced emissions. State  
8 needs control. There are so many jobs and future  
9 jobs that our children and grandchildren need from  
10 this. Keep the oil and gas industry like it is. You  
11 know. We employ tens of thousands of people up and  
12 down this river. And the people, they need their  
13 jobs.

14 So, I thank you very much for your time.  
15 And, um, I hope you will approve the Class VI.

16 Thank you.

17 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

18 Julie Menard. Reed Callais. Thomas  
19 Vinet. Claudia Carter. Nicole Cavalier. Belde  
20 Batiste. Deborah Modica. Michael Whitsett. Shawn  
21 Ward.

22 **SPEAKER:** Good morning.

23 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Good morning.

24 **SHAWN WARD:** I'm Shawn Ward, representing  
25 Cornerstone Chemical. Thank you for the opportunity

1 to comment in support of the State of Louisiana's  
2 underground injection control program Class VI  
3 program revision application.

4 As a state, Louisiana is poised and ready  
5 to implement carbon capture and sequestration. Not  
6 only were we among the first states to submit an  
7 application for primacy, but Louisiana is distinctly  
8 positioned to lead the country in carrying out  
9 carbon capture and sequestration safely and  
10 successfully, to support the achievement of the  
11 United States' goal to reduce greenhouse emissions  
12 by 50 to 52 percent by 2030, and achieve net zero by  
13 2050.

14 Louisiana powers America. As noted in a  
15 recent report from the LSU Center for Energy  
16 Studies, Louisiana, and our neighbor Texas, have an  
17 outsized number of industrial manufacturing  
18 facilities, including refiners and petrochemical  
19 plants, which account for approximately 14 percent  
20 of manufacturing employment. 150,000 jobs. And  
21 over \$23 billion in earnings. An average of  
22 \$154,000 per worker in the two states. Over the  
23 past decade, 2011 to 2021, the Gulf Coast has  
24 supported more than \$180 billion in energy  
25 manufacturing investment, as much as \$5.5 billion on

1 an average annualized basis.

2 Decarbonizing existing facilities is  
3 important for achieving environmental and economic  
4 goals, but is also a technical challenge, because  
5 these facilities are energy-intensive.

6 Granting primacy to Louisiana is good for  
7 the United States and for Louisiana. The state is  
8 well-equipped to implement and manage the momentous  
9 task for carbon capture and sequestration, perform  
10 it well, and carry it out safely. Granting primacy  
11 to Louisiana is the next important step in meeting  
12 the state's climate goals and supporting the  
13 achievement of our country's climate goals.

14 Thank you for your consideration.

15 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

16 Ainslie Blanke?

17 **AINSLIE BLANKE:** Good morning. My name is  
18 Ainslie Blanke. That's B-L-A-N-K-E. And I'm here  
19 to speak on behalf of Cornerstone Chemical Company.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to comment  
21 in support of the State of Louisiana's underground  
22 injection control program Class VI program revision  
23 application.

24 In August 2020, Louisiana governor John  
25 Bel Edwards formed the Climate Initiatives Task



1 Force to create policies within the state to lower  
2 greenhouse gases. In 2021, the task force approved  
3 its first ever Climate Action Plan, which includes  
4 more than 80 policy actions that, when carried out,  
5 will significantly reduce carbon emissions, while  
6 allowing the state to remain economically  
7 competitive. We were the first state in the south  
8 to take this important step, demonstrating our  
9 commitment to reaching net zero. These ambitious  
10 policies, along with the industry's pledge to create  
11 a healthier environment, make our state a natural  
12 choice for primacy.

13 At Cornerstone, we recognize the important  
14 role we play in Louisiana's and the nation's energy  
15 economy, and we are focused on sustainability and  
16 modernization, to transition our site in Waggaman,  
17 Louisiana, for the future. To Cornerstone, a  
18 sustainable future means creating a site that is  
19 more efficient, decreases our environmental  
20 footprint, and engages partnerships to further  
21 recycle, reuse, and refine existing processes to  
22 make them even safer, cleaner, and greener.

23 As local and global demand increases for  
24 the products we make, so do safer, cleaner, and  
25 greener methods of production. Along with other

1 emerging technologies, carbon capture and  
2 sequestration provides an opportunity within reach  
3 of achievement for our own sustainability goals, and  
4 enables us to support Louisiana's climate protection  
5 goals by the year 2050.

6 Strategic investments today enable a  
7 future Cornerstone site that is more efficient,  
8 produces less waste, reuses materials, and reduces  
9 emissions and overall environmental footprint.  
10 Cornerstone Energy Park is investing in improvements  
11 and partnerships, including carbon capture and  
12 sequestration, all on an existing industrial site  
13 that will generate local economic growth, improved  
14 safety and reliability, create jobs, and produce  
15 much-needed products that decrease reliance on  
16 foreign imports, and set the standard for modern  
17 production sites.

18 Granting primacy to Louisiana is the next  
19 important step to meeting the state's climate goals,  
20 and supporting the achievement of the country's  
21 climate goals. The state is well equipped to  
22 implement and manage the momentous task of carbon  
23 capture and sequestration, perform it well, and  
24 carry it out safely. Granting primacy to Louisiana  
25 is good for the United States, and for Louisiana.

1 Thank you for your consideration.

2 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

3 Bonnie Eckhart.

4 **BONNIE ECKHART:** Hi. Good morning. My  
5 name is Bonnie Eckhart, E-C-K-H-A-R-T. I am a Baton  
6 Rouge resident, and the plant manager of  
7 ExxonMobil's lubricant plant in Port Allen.

8 The aviation products that we make are  
9 critical to society, enabling people to connect all  
10 over the world. And demand is projected to continue  
11 to increase through 2040. The global middle class  
12 is projected to increase by 1.7 billion people over  
13 the next two decades, which means that a lot more  
14 energy is needed in the years ahead, for airplanes,  
15 vehicles, and industrial applications. At  
16 ExxonMobil, we are working to find new, lower-  
17 emissions fuels, to move the world.

18 I'm here today to ask you to grant primacy  
19 for Class VI wells to Louisiana. As the state  
20 diversifies its energy portfolio, such as renewable  
21 sources and natural gas, the ability to effectively  
22 implement carbon capture and sequestration  
23 technology through Class VI primacy, can help reduce  
24 the carbon footprint associated with these  
25 industries. CCS technology is an initial component

1 to support hydrogen power investments across  
2 Louisiana. Hydrogen is an abundant energy source  
3 that produces zero emissions at its point of use.  
4 It's also versatile, able to be used for power  
5 generation, industrial processes, and heavy-duty  
6 vehicles. Facilities that currently rely on natural  
7 gas can switch to hydrogen by either upgrading, or  
8 retrofitting existing natural gas systems, thus  
9 helping reduce both costs and emissions.

10 As ExxonMobil considers future investments  
11 in hydrogen power and other low-carbon projects, we  
12 hope the EPA will support these efforts to reduce  
13 emissions in Louisiana.

14 Thank you.

15 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

16 Jonathan Morgan?

17 **JONATHAN MORGAN:** Jonathan Morgan, M-O-R-  
18 G-A-N.

19 I'm a resident of Louisiana and plant  
20 manager at our ExxonMobil Baton Rouge polyolefins  
21 plant. My children were both born in Louisiana, and  
22 my family is proud to call Louisiana home. I'm a  
23 lifelong hunter and fisherman, and want to ensure  
24 opportunities continue for generations to come.

25 Our facility makes light-weight plastics

1 that are necessary in everyday life. Our products  
2 are used in critical medical applications, as well  
3 as household and food container products we all use  
4 every day. Our products are also prevalent in the  
5 auto industry, providing solutions to lighten  
6 automobiles and help increase fuel efficiency.

7 ExxonMobil's community investment plan is  
8 developed with stakeholder input to bring direct,  
9 sustainable benefits to residents and local  
10 businesses. We have showcased that commitment for  
11 nearly 115 years in Baton Rouge, by providing free  
12 workforce training, supporting small and diverse  
13 vendors, and by investing in our teachers, students,  
14 and classrooms. We'll continue that pledge as we  
15 bring new investment here through carbon capture and  
16 sequestration-related projects.

17 Securing Class VI primacy is crucial for  
18 Louisiana's economy, particularly because of its  
19 reliance on the oil and gas industry. It's  
20 important to note that CCS technologies have a  
21 proven track record of over 50 years in the United  
22 States, demonstrating their safety and reliability.  
23 As a global leader in the energy future, Louisiana  
24 can utilize CCS technology to safely reduce  
25 emissions and ensure our communities prosper.

1 Thank you for the opportunity to speak  
2 today.

3 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

4 Laura Eiklor.

5 **LAURA EIKLOR:** Good morning. My name is  
6 Laura Eiklor, E-I-K-L-O-R. I am a Baton Rouge  
7 citizen and I am an employee of ExxonMobil. I'm  
8 here today to ask you to grant primacy for the Class  
9 VI wells to Louisiana.

10 As a local resident and newly named  
11 manager of our ExxonMobil Baton Rouge plastics  
12 plant, I share our employees' commitment to  
13 productive community engagement. As you know,  
14 ExxonMobil has announced major CCS projects in  
15 partnership with CF Industries, EnLink, and Nucor.  
16 At ExxonMobil, we engage communities before project  
17 decisions are finalized, to understand community  
18 needs, concerns, and opportunities for support and  
19 collaboration. ExxonMobil then provides frequent  
20 and transparent updates to stakeholders throughout  
21 the construction, permitting, and operational  
22 process. At these collaborative projects, we would  
23 pledge to do the same.

24 Examples of our commitments are plentiful.  
25 In North Baton Rouge, we have provided free, fast-

1 tracked, industrial craft training to more than 400  
2 residents who live near our facilities. Today, many  
3 of them work in the industry, enjoying quality,  
4 well-paying careers. This type of program brings  
5 direct impact to our Louisiana residents. And we  
6 want to do more. We want to partner with the  
7 opportunities that we have here in our state.

8 I'm here to ask you to grant primacy for  
9 Class VI wells to Louisiana. We have demonstrated  
10 we are responsible stewards of our environment. We  
11 bring years of company expertise to underground well  
12 management, and we are committed to collaborating  
13 with our communities for centuries to come.

14 Thank you.

15 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

16 JoAnne Harding. Kenny Heffner. Donna  
17 Carpenter. Joseph Alcina. Jerry Rivers. Erica  
18 Doyle. Marilyn Daigle. Tanya Yentzen.

19 **TANYA YENTZEN:** Good morning. Thank you  
20 for your time. You're being very patient.

21 My name is Tanya Yentzen, Y-E-N-T-Z-E-N. I  
22 don't work for a large corporation. My husband and  
23 I, Doug Yentzen, who's in the audience, we have a  
24 small, family-owned business called Coastal Pipe of  
25 Louisiana. We buy and sell new and used API tubing

1 and casing to the oilfield and to structural and  
2 scrap markets. We are a recycling and  
3 reconditioning facility for used tubing and casing.  
4 So we were green before it was even a thing. Our  
5 family has been in this family-owned business for  
6 over 67 years. My whole family, and many of our  
7 extended family, works in the oil and gas industry.  
8 We are deeply entrenched in the oilfield.

9 I would like to share with you that my  
10 husband Doug is an avid hunter and fisherman who  
11 manages 3300 acres coastal marshland in Cameron  
12 Parish. It's very important to him, and me, that  
13 the environment is clean and safe, as we consume the  
14 fish, crabs, and shrimp that we catch on that land.  
15 Right in the middle of that acreage is a producing  
16 oil well. I have ridden by it in a boat and seen  
17 the area. I assure you, it is clean and safe. My  
18 family eats off of the bounty created there.

19 We share your concern about the  
20 environment. But we are here about Louisiana's bid  
21 for primacy regarding Class VI injection wells for  
22 carbon sequestration. Louisiana has already taken  
23 the lead on carbon sequestration, and it just makes  
24 plain common sense for you to grant primacy to

25 Louisiana, for the followings reasons: We have



1 the infrastructure, including pipelines, refineries,  
2 and storage facilities, and people. We have the  
3 knowledgeable manpower. We have the support  
4 businesses and materials at the ready. We are  
5 familiar with the permitting process, operating,  
6 testing, drilling, completion of the injection  
7 wells, and we are familiar with the EPA and federal  
8 standards regarding all aspects. We have the  
9 geological formations under the state that are  
10 perfect for CO2 storage.

11 We've lost a lot of jobs in the last eight  
12 years, and we are hoping to recover them for our  
13 families. And you granting primacy for Louisiana  
14 would help that. Our workforce, and knowledge of  
15 the industry and geology, would make your job easy.

16 For these reasons, and many more than I  
17 could list here, I urge you to grant Louisiana's bid  
18 for primacy for Class VI injection wells, for long-  
19 term storage of carbon dioxide and other oxides, as  
20 we continue to make Louisiana's environment safe and  
21 clean.

22 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

23 Rocky Fuselier?

24 Okay. We had a couple of people that  
25 straggled in a little late, so I'm going to go on

1 top of the list again.

2 Angela Bradford. Vickie Boothe. Marilyn  
3 Morace. Lloyd Landry. Julie Menard. Reed Callais.  
4 Thomas Vinet. Claudia Carter. Nicole Cavalier.  
5 Belde Batiste. Deborah Modica. Michael Whitsett.  
6 JoAnne Harding. Kenny Heffner. Donna Carpenter.  
7 Joseph Alcina. Jerry Rivers. Erica Doyle. Marilyn  
8 Daigle. And Rocky Fuselier.

9 Okay. At this time, we would like to open  
10 it to the floor. Anybody want to speak at this time  
11 that's not on the list?

12 Okay. Go ahead, sir. Either one. Yeah.  
13 You, sir.

14 **RAY LASSEIGNE:** Good morning. My name is  
15 Ray Lasseigne, L-A-S-S-E-I-G-N-E.

16 I am a petroleum engineer with over 50  
17 years' experience. I'm president and co-owner of  
18 TMR Exploration, Inc. I've served on the LSU  
19 Petroleum Engineering Industry Advisory Council for  
20 25 years. I've also served as a member of the LSU  
21 Board of Supervisors for six years.

22 For a century, Louisiana has led  
23 innovation and technology development in the energy  
24 and industrial sector, supplying almost one-third of  
25 the nation's energy-related refined products, and

1 safely producing the world's lowest carbon-intensive  
2 oil and gas from the Gulf of Mexico.

3 Louisiana is prepared to safely and  
4 properly implement CCUS. Louisiana has the perfect  
5 geology to store CO2. It has numerous thick,  
6 porous, permeable, and bounded saline aquifers at  
7 depths less than 10,000 feet, that have been  
8 previously identified. Louisiana has a very  
9 talented, professional workforce of geologists,  
10 geophysicists, and petroleum engineers, who can  
11 define and exploit these aquifers for storage  
12 purposes. Louisiana has a very talented workforce  
13 of engineers, who can use existing technology to  
14 capture emissions, separate the CO2, construct  
15 pipelines and compression facilities, and safely  
16 inject the CO2 into the underground saline aquifers.  
17 Louisiana also has a very skilled labor workforce of  
18 welders, pipefitters, electricians, instrumentation  
19 technicians, and equipment and facility operators.

20 Louisiana has a regulatory body, the  
21 Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, that has  
22 been working tirelessly for several years developing  
23 a regulatory framework to allow and monitor the safe  
24 and responsible injection and storage of CO2 in our  
25 underground saline aquifers. Louisiana has a

1 legislative and executive branch of government that  
2 has worked diligently to enact laws to properly  
3 govern all aspects of CCUS. Louisiana universities,  
4 in particular LSU and ULL, have instituted programs  
5 of not only research in CCUS, but also of educating  
6 its students, the professional workforce, public  
7 officials, and the general public, about CCUS.

8 We are now very well positioned to  
9 transform our state and industry to a low-carbon  
10 future, and Louisiana can become the template for  
11 other states to follow.

12 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

13 **RAY LASSEIGNE:** With Louisiana obtaining  
14 primacy, we can ensure that carbon capture is  
15 implemented effectively, in a way that our young  
16 professionals can be proud to work in an industry  
17 that will make our air cleaner.

18 Thank you very much.

19 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

20 Sir? Yes.

21 **SPEAKER:** Beat me to the punch? Okay.

22 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** I'll catch you next;  
23 okay?

24 **MIKE SUMROW:** Good morning. I'm Mike  
25 Sumrow, S-U-M-R-O-W. I'm with GHD Energy Services.

1           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** When you're ready, sir.

2           **MIKE SUMROW:** Good morning. I'm here to  
3 speak in support of CCS projects in Louisiana, and  
4 support EPA granting LDNR primacy for permitting UIC  
5 Class VI injection wells and projects.

6           I live in New Orleans area, and I'm  
7 concerned about climate change and the environmental  
8 impact that global warming is having on Louisiana  
9 and basically the entire planet. Climate change is  
10 real, but demand for hydrocarbons will remain strong  
11 for many years to come. It's impossible for the  
12 economy to transition to a green technology quick  
13 enough to really avert climate change. Hydrocarbon  
14 demand and production will continue, and does not  
15 really need CCS as an excuse. No one will shut down  
16 the economy to decarbonize. Every tool and means  
17 available, including CCS, must be brought to  
18 mitigate emissions and climate change.

19           I worked as a petroleum engineer for more  
20 than 45 years, with worldwide experience with major  
21 and national oil and gas companies. I have a lot of  
22 experience with design and operation of oil and gas  
23 production wells and various types of injection  
24 wells, including CO2 injection wells for CCS. The  
25 industry knows how to implement CCS projects safely

1 and responsibly. To mature CCS projects, it takes  
2 many months of work, from multidiscipline teams that  
3 include geophysicists, petrophysicists, geologists,  
4 reservoir and production and drilling engineers.  
5 Permitting and construction of CCS projects, it  
6 requires companies will join ventures to raise  
7 hundreds of millions of dollars. The due diligence  
8 is expensive and exhaustive, and this due diligence  
9 is not just the minimum required for a rubber stamp  
10 permit. It's driven by the need for safety and  
11 environmental responsibility and success. No  
12 company wants to be involved in anything to do with  
13 a problem that harms people or the environment.  
14 Owners and operators, they have every incentive to  
15 get it right to ensure safety and success of the  
16 project.

17 LDNR staff, they -- they know the local  
18 geology, well design requirements for Louisiana  
19 conditions, and are properly qualified to know when  
20 the work is -- for permitting, has been done  
21 correctly and completely. Several provisions of  
22 LDNR Class VI injection wells are more stringent  
23 than required by the EPA.

24 Several editorials have been published in  
25 local newspapers pointing to the most basic geologic

1 and petroleum engineering issues that -- and risks  
2 to consider -- faults, orphaned wells -- as if no  
3 one has really thought of them before. The industry  
4 knows very thoroughly how to evaluate and understand  
5 the structural geology, avoid leak paths, understand  
6 CO2 phase behavior and its interaction with  
7 hydrocarbons in the formation of brines. Statements  
8 that the industry doesn't really understand or know  
9 how to permit the -- predict these issues, are  
10 simply false and misleading information. It's been  
11 doing this for more than 50 years.

12 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, sir.

13 **MIKE SUMROW:** So I support primacy for  
14 Louisiana.

15 Thank you.

16 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

17 **DOUG YENTZEN:** Hello. My name is Doug  
18 Yentzen. I'm the owner of Coastal Pipe of  
19 Louisiana. My wife Tanya spoke earlier. I also own  
20 two little independent production companies, Pay All  
21 and Pay Ventures, LLC.

22 And my last name Yentzen, my great-  
23 grandfather developed the Yentzen duck call. So,  
24 that automatically meant that we were drawn to the  
25 land, and spent a lot of time outdoors. I'm an avid

1 fisherman and hunter. In fact, I'm leaving this  
2 meeting to go meet my little grandson, who's waiting  
3 for me diligently, to go catch a few redfish in our  
4 marsh. I've recently acquired 517 acres of coastal  
5 marsh down in Cameron Parish. And I wouldn't want  
6 to agree to anything that would harm this area that  
7 I have such a passion for. So, it's -- it's like  
8 I'm a bit of an oddity. Here I am in the oilfield,  
9 yet I pine over the environment. I love it  
10 tremendously. You know.

11 But I -- I know for a fact that Louisiana  
12 is sitting in the right position. We have the --  
13 the best support crew to pull this off. We're a  
14 natural to support the Class VI injection wells. A  
15 natural. Without harming the environment. We have  
16 the people, the geophysicists and geologists that  
17 can find the traps to hold all this material where  
18 it can't escape. We have the drilling engineers and  
19 the service companies, that have the best expertise  
20 in the world, to drill and complete and produce  
21 these wells.

22 So, gentlemen, I'm just telling you, that  
23 I think we can pull this off without harming the  
24 environment. We can have our cake and eat it too. I  
25 support Class VI injection wells.



1           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, sir.

2           **SPEAKER:** Hi. Good morning. My name is  
3 Sage Franz (sp.). I'm here from New Orleans. I'm  
4 grateful to be here as a representative of Sunrise  
5 New Orleans, which is a nationally based climate  
6 justice movement. I'm here to ask that primacy not  
7 be granted to the State of Louisiana for Class VI  
8 wells, and that the EPA be responsible for the  
9 permitting and upkeep of these wells.

10           I have been a resident of New Orleans  
11 since right before Katrina, 2005, and I've been  
12 there since then, through Hurricane Ida. And my  
13 argument here is simply because the State of  
14 Louisiana has not proven to have the training and  
15 resources to respond effectively to the chemical  
16 leaks and to the climate-related disasters and  
17 explosion events in the state, especially in the  
18 frontline communities where the environmental  
19 justice leaders are working hard to keep those  
20 plants out of their communities.

21           So I really encourage the members of this  
22 committee to read up on the case of the CO2 leak in  
23 Satartia, Mississippi, in 2020, leaving an entire  
24 community basically gassed by CO2. And a very  
25 poorly prepared emergency response department. In

1 some cases, emergency response vehicles unable to  
2 start, to travel to places to rescue people because  
3 of the oxygen displacement in the air because of the  
4 CO2.

5 So these are the issues we're dealing with  
6 from a leak from these wells. And, in addition to  
7 the fact that the emergency room medical staff, also  
8 unsure how to treat victims who have been exposed to  
9 this gas. So, the bottom line is that the emergency  
10 response teams in south Louisiana need much more  
11 training and resources before the right to issue  
12 these permits can be transferred to the state and  
13 CCS technology expanded on the Gulf Coast.

14 Thank you.

15 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

16 Is there anybody else?

17 Okay. Ma'am?

18 Sir, I'll get you next. Okay?

19 **SHARON LAVIGNE:** Good morning. My name is  
20 Sharon Lavigne, L-A-V-I-G-N-E. And I'm from St.  
21 James Parish. I'm the director and founder of Rise  
22 St. James, a faith-based grassroot organization  
23 created to protect our communities and our  
24 environment. I'm the recipient of the 2021 Goldman  
25 Environmental Prize. I'm a lifelong resident of St.

1 James, where my family has been living for  
2 generations. And we are fighting for clean air,  
3 clean water, every day, with no help from state and  
4 local officials.

5 I'm opposed to EPA's giving LDNR authority  
6 to grant permits for Class VI injection wells for  
7 carbon capture. This is too risky for our  
8 communities. There are 49 unplugged, useless wells  
9 in environmental justice areas of St. James,  
10 District 5, where I live. Permanent underground  
11 storage of carbon dioxide has never been done  
12 before, and involves significant risk for  
13 communities and our environment.

14 Thank you for allowing me to speak.

15 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

16 Sir?

17 **JOHN AMADOR:** I'm John Louis Amador. I'm  
18 an electrical power systems engineer with a master's  
19 degree in electric power generation and  
20 distribution. My background is over 28 years of  
21 experience doing work for industrial clients in  
22 chemicals, refining, mining, semiconductor  
23 manufacturing, and public works, and so forth. Some  
24 of our client basis. I am for primacy in the state  
25 to be adjudicated by the state in conjunction with

1 all the stakeholders in the industry business, as  
2 well as civil groups.

3 The state has a lot of experience doing  
4 massive capital projects at small, medium, and  
5 international monetary fund levels, including  
6 designing power systems for a lot of the copper  
7 mining that is done overseas that is scaling up, and  
8 has power generation and distribution needs, um,  
9 equaling or exceeding the State of Louisiana.

10 We have armies of people,  
11 multidisciplinary, across the board, in engineering,  
12 sciences, and the skilled craft trades. And note  
13 there will have to be, obviously, discussions and  
14 engagement at all levels of society to get this  
15 right. Power generation has always been doing the  
16 best with what we have and, as better available,  
17 doing better.

18 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

19 **ASHLEY GAIGNARD:** Good morning. My name  
20 is Ashley Gaignard, of Donaldsonville, Louisiana.

21 I'm a resident of Ascension Parish, west  
22 Ascension Parish. I oppose the drilling for the oil  
23 wells to be storing carbon capture, simply because  
24 of my area that I live in. It is predominantly a  
25 black area that is a rural area. This is still

1 sharecropper's land that I think they're trying to  
2 experiment on. I think there's more research that  
3 needs to be done. And I would suggest the land be,  
4 when they experiment, that it be done against --  
5 away from the communities that's already affected by  
6 the oil and gas industries. We're already the  
7 residents that's set right in the midst of carbon  
8 capture emissions from all of the local refineries  
9 already. I don't think it's fair that they should  
10 experiment in that same land. I think we're going  
11 back into the sharecropper days of selecting the  
12 areas that we want to experiment and try these  
13 things on.

14 I do not oppose, in no way, of, um,  
15 eliminating carbon emission and going out our way as  
16 Louisiana to support green gas, but I do think the  
17 area that we're choosing is still an area that we're  
18 testing and using the residents as the test dummies  
19 for these chemicals in the way that these things are  
20 being done. In no way do I say that scientists  
21 aren't right at their work that they're doing. God  
22 give everyone a gift, and we appreciate scientists  
23 in every way, and the engineers and what they do.  
24 All of our families are affected one way or another.  
25 Either we're working in the industries, so a lot of

1 us make an earning from the industries. A lot of  
2 our families are engineers that's doing the work  
3 behind the scene. I just think the area that's  
4 being selected to do these things are unfair. I  
5 just think, just try somebody else's back door  
6 instead of the same residents that are breathing the  
7 emissions that we already breathing in.

8 Thank you.

9 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

10 **MICHAEL ESEALUKA:** My name is Michael  
11 Esealuka. I'm a resident of New Orleans, and I am  
12 representing Louisiana Just Recovery Network, which  
13 is a construction company that repairs homes in  
14 southeast Louisiana that have been damaged by  
15 hurricanes and other natural disasters.

16 So, for me, it's -- you know, we're here  
17 today because this is not a question of whether or  
18 not CCS should or should not happen. Obviously  
19 there's money available that's going to make it  
20 happen. It's a question of whether or not the  
21 Louisiana government should be granted primacy to  
22 issue permits. And I am opposed to Louisiana being  
23 granted primacy, simply because our regulatory  
24 agencies have not shown themselves capable of  
25 properly regulating facilities in projects that do

1 exist, nor in taking account, when making siting  
2 decisions for issuing permits, communities that are  
3 already overburdened disproportionately by  
4 industrial pollution, which are usually working-  
5 class communities, they're poor folks, and  
6 especially African-American and indigenous  
7 communities.

8           So, you know, in recent memory, Nucor  
9 Steel in St. James Parish violated its air permits  
10 for six years by releasing toxic sulfur gas, a  
11 chemical that they were not even permitted to emit,  
12 before they were caught by the Louisiana Department  
13 of Environmental Quality. CF Industries, which is  
14 the largest greenhouse gas emitter in the state, and  
15 one of the companies that is currently proposing to  
16 develop a massive carbon pipeline, averages 15  
17 incidents per year, including a recent incident  
18 where students and teachers were evacuated and sent  
19 to a building with only two public restrooms  
20 available, for a group of 400 young students,  
21 elementary students and teachers.

22           The Department of Natural Resources is  
23 currently responsible for remediating oilfield sites  
24 and orphaned wells. There's over 4,000 documented  
25 wells that have not been cleaned up and currently

1 pose a public health hazard. Wells that have been  
2 plugged are not properly plugged, and once they are  
3 plugged, they are not observed over time to see if  
4 there's issues with the plug.

5 And, you know, right now, EPA is literally  
6 investigating Louisiana Department of Environmental  
7 Quality for violations of the Civil Rights Act. So  
8 our state government has consistently proven itself  
9 incapable of taking public health and community  
10 well-being into account when making permitting  
11 decisions. So we just don't -- we don't have the  
12 capacity right now to protect the interests of the  
13 public when making these decisions.

14 So, EPA, it is your responsibility to  
15 protect the people who breathe the air of Louisiana,  
16 who live in these communities, and do not give our  
17 government the right to issue these permits.

18 The last thing I'll say is that I know a  
19 lot of people are looking at CCS as an option to  
20 keep the industry around, because it does provide  
21 good jobs. I understand that. You know, a lot of  
22 people who have spoken today are in favor of this  
23 because of the proposed economic benefits. But this  
24 is a risky technology that's already proven that  
25 it's unable to capture the proposed emissions, and



1 it also poses a massive threat to human health.  
2 Satartia, Mississippi, is a perfect example. We  
3 don't want to be another test case. And that's  
4 exactly what we would be if Louisiana gets granted  
5 primacy.

6 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

7 Anybody else at this time wishing to  
8 speak?

9 **SPEAKER:** Good morning. My name is Hunter  
10 Reinhardt (sp.). I'm a law student at the law  
11 center at LSU. I just come on behalf of myself and  
12 someone who lives in Baton Rouge.

13 I would like to strongly advocate for  
14 Louisiana's application for Class VI primacy. As  
15 hopefully a future leader in the state, it is my  
16 primary concern that Louisiana moves in the right  
17 direction in terms of reliable and cost-effective  
18 energy production. Class VI primacy would allow us  
19 to control our own energy future and make progress  
20 in carbon capture technology, in both a safe and  
21 expedited manner. Our law centers, our schools, our  
22 workplaces, and homes, rely on cost-effective and  
23 reliable energy. Our state's domain over CCUS  
24 projects would ensure the critical industries in the  
25 state remain empowered, while reducing their carbon

1 footprint.

2 As a law student, I understand and  
3 appreciate the importance of the EPA. I want to  
4 thank the EPA for its leadership in advancing carbon  
5 solution technology, and the desire for consistent  
6 and safe regulatory administration standards.

7 However, I argue that Louisiana knows how to  
8 administer energy policies better than anyone.

9 Louisiana's adopted a comprehensive set of  
10 regulations for Class VI wells, and the Louisiana  
11 Office of Conservation has added both technical and  
12 legal staff in anticipation of obtaining primacy.  
13 Additionally, LSU's petroleum engineering department  
14 offers a concentration in CCS, and the law center  
15 offers a graduate certificate in energy law and  
16 policy.

17 Louisiana has all the tools and staff  
18 necessary to safely and effectively handle CCUS  
19 projects. There is also bipartisan support for  
20 these projects, as the economic and environmental  
21 benefits will be felt throughout the state for years  
22 to come.

23 I ask the EPA to expeditiously approve  
24 Louisiana's ability to make decisions related to the  
25 development of CCUS technologies, so that Louisiana

1 and the U.S. can remain the foremost energy leaders  
2 of the world. I do really understand the importance  
3 of having standards administered by the Federal  
4 Government, but the long process that this could  
5 take, could create thousands and thousands more  
6 metric tons of carbon in the air before a permit is  
7 even looked at.

8 I appreciate it, and thank you guys very  
9 much.

10 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

11 Anybody else at this time wishing to  
12 comment?

13 Let's take a ten-minute break. Hopefully  
14 we will get new speakers and come back -- let's come  
15 back at 10:20, please. 10:20.

16 Off the record.

17 **(Off record at 10:12 a.m.)**

18 **(On record at 10:22 a.m.)**

19 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Welcome back, everybody.

20 It's been confirmed to us by the Live Stream  
21 technician that, unfortunately, we had a ten- to  
22 fifteen-second break in the Internet and it affected  
23 one of the speakers. So we're asking that speaker  
24 to come back and give her comment again, and that's  
25 Ms. Lavigne.

1 You want to come forward, ma'am?

2 **SHARON LAVIGNE:** Yes.

3 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Whenever you're ready,  
4 okay?

5 **SHARON LAVIGNE:** Okay. Good morning  
6 again. And my name is Sharon Lavigne, L-A-V-I-G-N-  
7 E. And I'm from St. James, Louisiana. And I'm the  
8 director and founder of Rise St. James, a faith-  
9 based, grassroot organization created to protect our  
10 communities and our environment. I'm the recipient  
11 of the 2021 Goldman Environmental Prize for North  
12 America. I'm a lifelong resident of St. James,  
13 where my family has been living for generations.  
14 And we are fighting for clean air and clean water,  
15 every day, with no help from our state and local  
16 officials.

17 I'm opposed to the EPA giving LDNR  
18 authority to grant permits for Class VI injection  
19 wells for carbon capture. This is too risky for our  
20 communities. There are 49 unplugged, useless wells  
21 in environmental justice areas of St. James Fifth  
22 District, where I live. Permanent underground  
23 storage of carbon dioxide has never been done  
24 before, and involves significant risk for  
25 communities and our environment.

1 Thank you for allowing me to speak.

2 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

3 At this time, is there anybody else who  
4 wishes to come forward and give a comment?

5 Okay. We're going to be here until noon.  
6 And unfortunately we don't have any speakers at the  
7 moment. So as soon as new speakers come in, we'll  
8 be back on the record. We're more than happy to  
9 stay here in the room, but in the meantime we're  
10 going to go ahead and get off the record until a new  
11 speaker comes forward. Okay?

12 **(Off record at 10:25 a.m.)**

13 **(On record at 10:27 a.m.)**

14 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Back on the record.

15 Whenever you're ready.

16 **JOLENA BROUSSARD:** Hello. My name is  
17 JoLena Broussard, B-R-O-U-S-S-A-R-D, and I am  
18 representing Cornerstone Chemical Company. Thank  
19 you for the opportunity to speak in support of the  
20 State of Louisiana's underground injection control  
21 program.

22 As a state, Louisiana is poised and ready  
23 to implement carbon capture and sequestration. Since  
24 1908, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources,  
25 then called the Louisiana Commission for the

1 Conservation of Natural Resources, has been tasked  
2 with addressing and protecting conservation and the  
3 state's greatest asset, our natural resources.

4 Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
5 is well resourced and knows Louisiana geology best.  
6 Agency experts have spent decades studying the land  
7 and overseeing industry to ensure our water, our  
8 wetlands, our coast, and our communities, are all  
9 protected, while allowing industry to remain in the  
10 state. Accordingly, it would stand to reason that  
11 authority for Class VI injection well permitting  
12 should fall into the experienced hands of the state  
13 agency, to maximize efficiency and deliver results  
14 as quickly as possible.

15 As you've already heard from some of my  
16 colleagues at Cornerstone Chemical Company, at  
17 Cornerstone, we recognize the important role we play  
18 in Louisiana and the nation's energy economy. And we  
19 are focused on sustainability and modernization, to  
20 transition our site in Waggaman for the future. To  
21 Cornerstone, a sustainable future means creating a  
22 site that is more efficient, decreases our  
23 environmental footprint, and engages partnerships,  
24 to further recycle, reuse and refine existing  
25 processes, to make them even safer, cleaner, and

1 greener.

2 Carbon capture and sequestration provides  
3 an opportunity, within reach of achievement, for our  
4 own sustainability goals, and enables us to support  
5 Louisiana's climate protection goals. Strategic  
6 investments today enable a future Cornerstone site  
7 that is more efficient, produces less waste, reuses  
8 materials, and reduces emissions and overall  
9 environmental footprint. Cornerstone Energy Park is  
10 investing in improvements and partnerships,  
11 including carbon capture and sequestration, all on  
12 an existing industrial site. That will generate  
13 local economic growth, improve safety and  
14 reliability, create jobs, and produce much-needed  
15 products that decrease reliance on foreign imports,  
16 and set the standard for modern production sites.

17 Louisiana is well equipped to implement  
18 and manage the momentous task of carbon capture and  
19 sequestration, perform it well, and carry it out  
20 safely. Granting primacy to Louisiana is good for  
21 the United States and for Louisiana. Granting  
22 primacy to Louisiana is not only the next important  
23 step to meeting the state's climate goals, but also  
24 the next important step to supporting the  
25 achievement of our country's climate goals.

1 Louisiana is distinctly positioned to lead the  
2 country in carrying out carbon capture and  
3 sequestration safely and successfully, to support  
4 the achievement of the United States' goals to  
5 reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and achieve net  
6 zero by 2050.

7 Thank you.

8 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

9 Anyone else?

10 **(Off record at 10:31 a.m.)**

11 **(On record at 11:07 a.m.)**

12 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Let's go back on the  
13 record.

14 Give me one second, sir, okay?

15 **SPEAKER:** Okay.

16 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. Please spell your  
17 name for us, sir, and remember you have three  
18 minutes to give your statement. Okay?

19 **ROCKY FUSELIER:** Okay. My name is Rocky  
20 Fuselier. That's R-O-C-K-Y F-U-S-E-L-I-E-R.

21 I'm from Louisiana. I've lived in Lake  
22 Charles, Louisiana pretty much most of my life. I  
23 have family that work in the industries. I worked  
24 in the industry at one time. But I had an accident  
25 and it left me paralyzed; I could no longer work in



1 the industry. I, um -- but I've been working in  
2 Lake Charles at a -- at a agency there that helps  
3 people with disabilities become more independent.

4 I've lived in Louisiana pretty much most  
5 of my life, all my life, and, um, I have a lot of  
6 family members that work in the industries. And,  
7 being disabled, I -- I come to Baton Rouge a lot to  
8 advocate for different services and things. And I  
9 know oil and gas is a big resource for Louisiana.  
10 And so, um, State General Funds is always something  
11 that's being cut, or one thing or another, so I -- I  
12 advocate -- many, many times I've come to Baton  
13 Rouge and -- and advocated for these services, that  
14 I fear if we don't continue to, um, provide oil and  
15 gas in Louisiana, we -- that would hurt a lot of  
16 people with, um, with disabilities. And, um -- and  
17 me personally. I'm not opposed to different sources  
18 of energy or a new source of energy, but I don't  
19 think our -- our -- we're at that point in time to  
20 where we have those resources available at this  
21 time. Battery power is -- is good, but I don't  
22 think we're -- we're advanced enough in that  
23 category to sustain what our society needs.

24 So, I really would appreciate if y'all  
25 continued to, or if Louisiana does continue to drill

1 oil and gas -- for oil and gas.

2 Um, and that's pretty much, you know, my  
3 spiel.

4 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

5 **ROCKY FUSELIER:** All right.

6 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, sir.

7 **(Off record at 11:10 a.m.)**

8 **(On record at 11:31 a.m.)**

9 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Please spell your full  
10 name, sir, and note that you have three minutes to  
11 give your statement, okay?

12 **DARREL TANNER:** Okay. I'm Darrel Tanner,  
13 D-A-R-R-E-L, Tanner, T-A-N-N-E-R.

14 I'm from Bogalusa, Louisiana. I've been  
15 in Louisiana since '01. Been working in the  
16 industry -- well, been working construction,  
17 different plants and different types, since '02.  
18 The, um -- I'm all for the carbon capture. It's  
19 needed for the environment. They've been talking  
20 about it since I was in school in the seventies. And  
21 it's coming true. It's needed for the kids. It's  
22 needed for us. And it's good for industry. It might  
23 cost a little bit, but it's a ton of work to be done  
24 in doing that. Work I've been doing is partially  
25 involved in it. I been working power plants and

1 refineries and doing new construction, adding on to  
2 the equipment. And it -- it, um -- all of it --  
3 well, not all of it, but a lot of it, you know, is  
4 involved in capturing and redoing -- you know, the  
5 carbon recapture will need pumps and pipelines and  
6 vessels, holding and storing and processing the  
7 carbons. And then reprocessing it. And that's what  
8 my work does. And it's very good-paying work. And  
9 that's years and years of work. It's -- it's needed  
10 to be done because -- well, it's needed for the  
11 kids, it's needed -- it's got to be done. It will  
12 be done eventually. It's just a matter of when and  
13 who's in charge of it, I think. I'd just as soon  
14 see state and locals be in charge of it. And, um --  
15 yeah. All right.

16           The work I've been doing, it was either  
17 pipeline, um, refinery, adding on new equipment, and  
18 all the other stuff, where it just dumped the  
19 carbons out into the air. Now most of what you see  
20 coming out of the smokestack is nothing but steam.  
21 It's been -- all been reprocessed, and then the  
22 carbons and the other stuff that's hazardous stuff  
23 is loaded in trucks and taken off and reprocessed.

24           The, um -- hm. I'm running out of things,  
25 but I know what I want to say, is, it's all -- it's

1 all needed to be done, and it's going to have to be  
2 done. It's just a matter of when and who. You  
3 can't shut down the environment. Everything --  
4 petroleum and all that is going to be involved for  
5 years. And even that, you know, power plants and  
6 all that, they're all -- working off of it.

7 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Mr. Tanner, your three  
8 minutes are up.

9 **DARREL TANNER:** Okay. Thank you.

10 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, sir.

11 **(Off record at 11:34 a.m.)**

12 **(On record at 11:58 a.m.)**

13 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay, everyone. It's  
14 almost noon. So we're going to go ahead and close  
15 this session and come back at 1 o'clock. Thank you.

16 **(Off record at 11:58 a.m.)**

17 **(On record at 1:00 p.m.)**

18 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Good afternoon,  
19 everybody. It's now 1 o'clock. This public hearing  
20 is now in session.

21 Is -- Mr. Richard Gladen? Chris Morris?  
22 Theresa Wilson. Sheila Hughes.

23 Please come to the table, ma'am. Could  
24 you please spell your name for us? And please note  
25 you have three minutes to give your statement, okay?

1           **SHEILA HUGHES:** Okay. Sheila Hughes, S-H-  
2 E-I-L-A H-U-G-H-E-S.

3           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

4           **SHEILA HUGHES:** Go ahead?

5           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Yes.

6           **SHEILA HUGHES:** Okay. As you know, my  
7 name is Sheila Hughes. I'm a resident of Livingston  
8 Parish, and I've lived there all my life. My  
9 family's been property owners there for several  
10 generations. So when the Tuscaloosa Trend began  
11 back in 1975, it was a blessing for us all. Oil  
12 companies came in and leased up all the mineral  
13 rights in the area, and that was a great boon for  
14 not only my family, but everybody in the parish and  
15 the state as well. Because the revenues we received  
16 from leasing, and a little bit of royalties meant so  
17 much to us, I would love to see the industry get  
18 redeveloped, get started back. It would be such a  
19 blessing to leave this legacy to our children and  
20 grandchildren, our family, and the state as well.

21           Right now, our country imports petroleum  
22 from Canada, Mexico, and other countries, including  
23 Russia. And I hate to think we're even just a  
24 little bit dependent on Russia for our fuel. I do  
25 not believe that electricity is the answer to our

1 energy problems. Electric cars will never be  
2 dependable. Again, we would be dependent on imports  
3 from other countries, namely China, for the minerals  
4 that we would need for the batteries.

5 Our power grid is extremely vulnerable,  
6 not just to physical incidents, but these days, to  
7 cyber attacks. Also, don't forget, this is  
8 Louisiana. With the hurricanes we experience here,  
9 we're often without electric power for weeks at a  
10 time. After Hurricane Ida in 2021, we were  
11 personally without electricity for two whole weeks.  
12 Then there's geomagnetic storms. They're  
13 responsible for the beautiful Aurora Borealis, which  
14 my husband and I have been privileged to experience  
15 on a trip to Alaska, but they can also cause EMPs  
16 that can wreak havoc on our power grid. Can you  
17 imagine the chaos if the power grid went down and  
18 you are depending on electric vehicles for not only  
19 your personal travel, but for delivery of your food,  
20 your mail, and everything you hold dear? I don't own  
21 a horse and buggy. Do you? Right here in  
22 Louisiana, we're sitting on top of oil and gas  
23 reservoirs just waiting to be claimed.

24 Did you know that our state rates number  
25 two in poverty in the nation? Our economy relies on

1 our industries here, such as energy, tourism, and  
2 agriculture. We depend on our oil and gas revenues.  
3 Future generations are depending on us to provide  
4 for them. And we have the natural resources. So  
5 let's get the fossil fuel industry back on track in  
6 Louisiana.

7 Thank you.

8 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

9 Juanita Guyon. Adam Knapp. Frankie  
10 Broussard. Chase Peloquin. Brenda Dupont. Shannon  
11 Lemoine. Madonna Phillips. Lisa Cothorn. Bonnie  
12 Devall. Glenn Butt. Stephanie LeJeune. Ashley  
13 Moreau. Jane Patton. Gregory McLean. Barbara  
14 Keener. Wanda Bitner. Esterly Alan. Patricia Wall.  
15 Jim Rock.

16 When you're ready, sir.

17 **JIM ROCK:** Sure. Jim Rock. J-I-M R-O-C-  
18 K.

19 Okay. Good afternoon. I serve as the  
20 executive director of Lake Area Industry Alliance,  
21 which represents 24 industrial manufacturing  
22 facilities, including refineries, chemical  
23 manufacturing, and LNG export facilities in  
24 southwest Louisiana. I personally have 46 years of  
25 experience in industrial chemical manufacturing, and

1 I've had several leadership roles, not only in the  
2 industry, but also in the community.

3 I'd like to thank the Environmental  
4 Protection Agency for this opportunity to provide  
5 information for consideration to grant the Louisiana  
6 Department of Natural Resources authority to permit  
7 Class VI wells in our state.

8 Louisiana has become a global energy  
9 leader. Our energy history started back in the  
10 early days of oil and petroleum products that  
11 provided energy for vehicles, equipment, and even  
12 aircraft. The availability and distribution system  
13 in use of natural gas has provided clean energy  
14 sources for our utility power grid, as well as all  
15 of our industrial facilities.

16 Chemical manufacturing has also been a  
17 foundation for the southwest Louisiana workforce for  
18 over 80 years. Most recently, southwest Louisiana  
19 has become a global leader in the LNG export  
20 industry, and are home to facilities that currently  
21 represent over half of the total United States' LNG  
22 export capacity. Several other LNG projects are  
23 either currently under construction or in the  
24 planning stages. Becoming a leader in carbon  
25 capture and sequestration will ensure that we will



1 continue our significant role in the national and  
2 global energy landscape.

3 Americans are moving towards a more  
4 environmentally sustainable future, and reducing  
5 carbon emissions is part of the solution. With our  
6 industrial footprint and the perfect geology, we  
7 could play a substantial and beneficial role in this  
8 endeavor, with an efficient permitting process from  
9 the Department of Natural Resources. Carbon capture  
10 utilization and storage technologies will prolong  
11 the life of valuable existing industries which  
12 provide the feedstock to produce the products that  
13 our nation requires. Together, we can reduce the  
14 carbon dioxide emitted to the air, and foster a safe  
15 and clean future for Louisiana communities and its  
16 environment.

17 The Louisiana Department of Natural  
18 Resources knows our state and has the expertise to  
19 quickly and efficiently permit the projects, which  
20 will expedite the development of these projects.  
21 Currently, there are over 20 announced projects of  
22 this nature in Louisiana, and at least half a dozen  
23 in southwest Louisiana. We have the infrastructure,  
24 including enormous systems of pipelines, the  
25 expertise of drilling and maintaining wells, and the

1 trained workforce to support the carbon capture, and  
2 further industrial growth in the state. We are now  
3 ready to transform our state and the overall  
4 industry to a low-carbon future.

5 Thank you again for this opportunity, and  
6 we look forward to a positive response to our  
7 request in the near future.

8 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

9 Juanita LeBlanc. Kim Goodell. Juanita  
10 Partain. Charles Lejeune. Lee Stockwell.

11 **LEE STOCKWELL:** Good afternoon. My name's  
12 Lee Stockwell, L-E-E S-T-O-C-K-W-E-L-L. I am the  
13 general manager of Shell's carbon capture and  
14 storage business here in the United States. While my  
15 agreement for Shell is national, I'm especially  
16 pleased to be here today because I'm also a Baton  
17 Rouge native and an LSU alum. Go Tigers.

18 Shell has had a long and mutually  
19 rewarding history in Louisiana for over a hundred  
20 years. Today, we have about 3,000 employees and  
21 over 4,000 retirees in the state. That's equivalent  
22 to the population of many of the towns that make up  
23 the Louisiana community we're a part of.  
24 Additionally, we have thousands of contractors who  
25 work alongside us every day.

1 Before making comments specific to CCS,  
2 let me paint a brief picture of our major operating  
3 assets in the state. These are facilities and  
4 businesses powered by our most valuable asset, our  
5 employees and contractors. Just across the river  
6 from this building, in Port Allen, is our Shell  
7 catalyst manufacturing site, which just broke ground  
8 on a new expansion. Heading over the bridge towards  
9 New Orleans, you then come to our Geismar chemical  
10 plant, Ascension Parish. The next stop would be our  
11 Convent site at the foot of the Sunshine Bridge in  
12 St. James Parish. In St. Charles Parish, there's a  
13 Norco products and chemicals park, and the New  
14 Orleans Central Business District is home to our  
15 Gulf of Mexico producing operations business. Shell  
16 has parts of our Gulf of Mexico business also  
17 located in Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes, as  
18 well as our Robert training facility in Tangipahoa  
19 Parish. That's eight parishes with just our major  
20 facilities.

21 Shell is the leading producer of oil and  
22 gas in the U.S. gulf, home to the lowest carbon  
23 intensity barrels of crude oil produced by Shell.

24 Now, regarding why we're here today,  
25 carbon capture and storage, or CCS, is the issue of

1 primacy for the Class VI injection well permitting.

2 I offer the following comments: I want to  
3 relay Shell's and my belief that CCS is essential to  
4 tackling climate change and meeting the goal to be  
5 net zero by 2050, held by many in the international  
6 community and the U.S., including the State of  
7 Louisiana. For our part, Shell has set a target to  
8 become a net zero emissions energy business by 2050.  
9 Many leading government and non-governmental  
10 science, research, and recommendations indicate we  
11 cannot meet these goals without CCS.

12 CCS is certainly not new to Shell. Carbon  
13 dioxide has been safely captured, transported, and  
14 injected downhole for 50 years. That said, the  
15 public understandably has many questions and  
16 concerns that need to be addressed to earn the  
17 right, the trust, and the confidence of our  
18 community and neighbors that CCS can be done right.  
19 First and foremost, CCS can and must be done safely.

20 To achieve climate change targets, CCS  
21 also must be done effectively, and that requires  
22 experience and expertise. Shell has both. We're  
23 the joint venture operator of Quest CCS project in  
24 Canada. This pilot project has stored eight million  
25 tons of carbon dioxide over the last seven years,

1 and demonstrated the ability to scale up full  
2 operations. This Shell has developed the expertise  
3 to safely and permanently store over that time, and  
4 is working with local and national agencies to share  
5 ways to perform CCS safely in Louisiana. For CCS to  
6 be deployed effectively, the timelines and resources  
7 needed to achieve those timelines need to be  
8 shortened. The LDNR and the Office of Conservation  
9 has a credible plan, as well as the experience,  
10 understanding, and expertise --

11 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, Mr. Stockwell.

12 **LEE STOCKWELL:** Thank you.

13 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, sir.

14 Charles Blaize. Jack Hutchinson. Matthew  
15 Jewell. Rhett Davis. Michael Broussard. Jolynn  
16 Reed. Antoinette Latiolais. Scott Reed. William  
17 Dawson. David Mihalik. Joseph Armond. Lawrence  
18 Orbeck. Beth White. Myrtle White. Steven Upton.  
19 Rebecca Parks.

20 Okay. I saw some people come in late, so  
21 I'm going to go back to the list -- oh. There's a  
22 couple more people.

23 Scott Medine. Darla Steagall.

24 **DARLA STEAGALL:** Here.

25 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. Please.

1           **DARLA STEAGALL:** I had cataract surgery  
2 yesterday so I'm having trouble seeing. Please  
3 forgive me if I stumble.

4           My name is Darla Steagall. I was born and  
5 raised in Louisiana. First, I would like to state  
6 that I'm very much in favor of these carbon capture  
7 projects, and I firmly believe it will be beneficial  
8 to our state and pose no threat to our environment.  
9 I grew up in the rural areas of Louisiana. I  
10 learned to hunt alongsides my brothers. We raised  
11 cattle. We hunted deer, squirrel, rabbit. I'm very  
12 familiar with our environment.

13           In 1970, I moved to Baton Rouge, where my  
14 husband was employed -- Ron, was employed by the  
15 Exxon refinery. I learned a lot about the oil and  
16 chemical industry during that time. They received  
17 and produced so many products and byproducts, some  
18 of which are used at the other plants and  
19 refineries. He retired and went to work at Shintech  
20 refinery in Plaquemine, until he passed away at age  
21 79.

22           During the late '80s, we built our  
23 retirement home on Lake Verret in Assumption Parish.  
24 During our 16 years there, we learned a lot about  
25 our environment. We fished almost every day. We

1 fished the bayous and swamps of the Atchafalaya  
2 Basin. And I did not know that there were so many -  
3 - in the swamps and bayous, there were so many oil  
4 wells and wellheads. There's even a sweetener plant  
5 in the bayou within the Lake Verret tributaries,  
6 which have the best fishing for miles around. The  
7 Atchafalaya Basin produces some of the best  
8 crawfish, and the commercial fishermen from all  
9 types are always in the swamps, and they even made  
10 it their livelihood. Troy Landry from Swamp People  
11 hunts alligators in Lake Verret and the surrounding  
12 area, and he was our neighbor on the lake. We  
13 discovered the best fishing and best sac-a-lait  
14 fishing was around the wellheads that were scattered  
15 around.

16 My husband, being a supervisor at  
17 Shintech, one of his responsibilities was keeping  
18 the plant supplied with skilled workers. He worked  
19 with hundreds of pipefitters, welders, mechanical  
20 people, insulators, scaffold builders, electricians,  
21 millwrights, plumbers, and others throughout his  
22 years there. I know that all the plants and  
23 refineries employ thousands of skilled workers. Our  
24 people depend on the oil and chemical industries to  
25 support their families. I believe almost the entire

1 state depends on oil and chemical industry in some  
2 form or another.

3 Carbon capture is needed. But yes, the  
4 carbon capture project is much needed, and I believe  
5 it poses no threat to our environment. I believe  
6 Louisiana has done so much to make certain we  
7 produce the cleanest products with the least amount  
8 of harmful chemicals. The carbon capture projects  
9 will ensure that we are that much cleaner. Louisiana  
10 is known as Sportsman's Paradise, but we do coexist  
11 with the oil and chemical industry.

12 Thank you.

13 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

14 Okay. So we're going to go back to the  
15 list. After I complete this list, then we'll open  
16 it to the floor, whoever wants to make a statement.  
17 Okay?

18 So, Richard Gladen. Chris Morris. Theresa  
19 Wilson. Juanita Guyon. Adam Knapp.

20 **ADAM KNAPP:** Do you need a copy of the  
21 statement?

22 **MR. USSERY:** If you'd like to submit  
23 something, yeah; sure.

24 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

25 **ADAM KNAPP:** On behalf of the Baton Rouge



1 area business community, my name is Adam Knapp. I'm  
2 the president and CEO of the Baton Rouge Area  
3 Chamber. We're an economic development and Chamber  
4 of Commerce group here in the capital region in  
5 Louisiana. And I want to just offer our support for  
6 your consideration of primacy and -- and put a  
7 little bit of context to that, which is expressed in  
8 broader context in the note. I'll just read a bit  
9 of what we submitted as -- as part of this.

10 I think the state's application before you  
11 poses really two big questions to the EPA: Is  
12 Louisiana able to manage this permitting process  
13 properly in a manner similar or hopefully better  
14 than the authority that's already granted to the  
15 State of North Dakota, and is granting this  
16 authority in the nation's interests? And I want to  
17 just offer a little bit more context to that.

18 We believe strongly in Louisiana  
19 Department of Natural Resources and Department of  
20 Environmental Quality. Their staff are  
21 professional. They have been well-managed, and  
22 frankly, apolitical, in both administrations that  
23 are run by Democrats, or by governors who are  
24 Republican. And we have seen that through the last,  
25 really, 20 years, of a competent, well-managed,

1 apolitical agency, that you have the ability to have  
2 confidence in those teams to do so with  
3 conscientiousness. We've also seen that in the case  
4 when the legislature has been majority Democrat and  
5 majority Republican, that the agencies themselves  
6 are able to do their jobs at a professional and  
7 competent manner in carrying out the regulatory  
8 authority of the federal government that's empowered  
9 upon our state through those agencies.

10 And so I think this is proper, this is as  
11 it should be. And we believe it should convey to  
12 you the confidence needed to empower Louisiana with  
13 the significant responsibility that's being  
14 considered by this application.

15 Louisiana's Climate Action Plan shows that  
16 industrial emissions in Louisiana from carbon  
17 dioxide are responsible for 66 percent of the  
18 state's carbon impacts, while nationally this is  
19 closer to 33 percent. In just south Louisiana,  
20 according to EPA data, probably 130 some-odd million  
21 tons a year of carbon dioxide equivalents are  
22 emitted through the industrial emissions of south  
23 Louisiana. About 105 million tons of that only come  
24 from south Louisiana, from Lake Charles to New  
25 Orleans. And so it's of no small concern or matter

1 to the United States, that nearly every one of these  
2 major industrial emitters have made goals to achieve  
3 net zero emissions targets by 2050, and the impact  
4 that that will have on Louisiana's impact in  
5 achieving its state's goals for industrial  
6 emissions.

7           We have looked in the modeling that is  
8 available in the state's Climate Action Plan that's  
9 available from RMI, that probably 65 percent of  
10 achieving the state's 2050 goals can be achieved  
11 through carbon capture and sequestration targets.  
12 And so that's as -- it could have significant effect  
13 on the importance of doing so. We also have seen  
14 that the products made in south Louisiana are  
15 critical to the entire nation and to the world. And  
16 so it is very much in the interest of the country,  
17 as well as the world, that we have an efficient  
18 process in Louisiana to do so, and we think it's  
19 right to empower Louisiana to have this  
20 responsibility.

21           Thank you.

22           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, Mr. Knapp.

23           Frankie Broussard. Chase Peloquin. Brenda  
24 Dupont. Shannon Lemoine. Madonna Phillips. Lisa  
25 Cothorn. Bonnie Devall. Glenn Butt. Stephanie

1 LeJeune. Ashley Moreau. Jane Patton. Gregory  
2 McLean. Barbara Keener. Gregory McLean. Wanda  
3 Bitner. Esterly Alan. Patricia Wall. Juanita  
4 LeBlanc. Kim Goodell. Michael Sadden. Juanita  
5 Partain. Charles Lejeune. Charles Blaize, Jr.  
6 Jack Hutchinson. Matthew Jewell. Rhett Davis.  
7 Michael Broussard. Jolynn Reed. Antoinette  
8 Latiolais. Scott Reed. William Dawson. David  
9 Mihalik.

10 **DAVID MIHALIK:** Here.

11 Good afternoon. My name is David Mihalik.

12 It's M-I-H-A-L-I-K.

13 I am here -- I'm a senior advisor to  
14 environmental and regulatory affairs for BASF in  
15 Geismar, Louisiana. I am also a resident of  
16 Ascension Parish and have lived in the state of  
17 Louisiana and worked here for more than 40 years.

18 BASF supports the petition of the LDNR for  
19 primacy over regulations for Class VI UIC wells, in  
20 line with their currently granted role over Class I  
21 through V roles. We will be submitting comments to  
22 EPA prior to the July 3rd, 2023 deadline outlining  
23 this support.

24 BASF has established ambitious global  
25 goals for carbon reduction. These include reducing

1 greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2030, and  
2 achieving net zero CO2 emissions by 2050. These  
3 goals align closely with the Louisiana Climate  
4 Action Plan that Governor John Bel Edwards has put  
5 forward for the state. BASF views carbon capture  
6 use and storage as an important step in the long-  
7 term sustainability of the industrial sector. The  
8 rapid deployment and scalability of CCUS projects  
9 depends in part on the willingness of the regulating  
10 agencies to provide oversight while not creating  
11 obstacles to progress. We in the industrial sector  
12 are key partners for the long-term goal of success  
13 in carbon emission reduction. We urge the EPA to  
14 grant the LDNR primacy authority. The future for  
15 Louisiana is bright. The industrial sector is ready  
16 to lead by making the investment necessary to allow  
17 a transition to a clean energy future.

18 Thank you.

19 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

20 Joseph Armond. Lawrence Orbeck. Beth  
21 White. Myrtle white.

22 **MYRTLE WHITE:** Here.

23 My name is Myrtle White. I'm 70 years  
24 old. I was born and raised here. I grew up on a  
25 farm out in Livingston Parish. Was originally on a

1 farm at my grandmother's in Lafayette.

2 I used to work in the oil refinery, Placid  
3 Oil. I started out there in maintenance. I learned  
4 how to do the piping and what it was for, fixing the  
5 pumps and stuff. I worked in the tank farms,  
6 cutting grass, and then when there was a spill, we  
7 picked it up. We had a spill one winter of tar.  
8 And we worked for a week getting all that stuff back  
9 up and put back into the original, um, crude oil  
10 tanks. I learned from there everything that -- how  
11 everything goes through there. When I swapped over  
12 to operations, I learned what the refinery really  
13 was and how it worked. I learned what the towers  
14 did. How the distillation worked. I spent three  
15 years there. And I enjoyed every bit of it.

16 I've learned from my family -- we have  
17 people that have been in the oil business. My uncle  
18 had a pick-up/laydown machine back in the nineties.  
19 He worked there for years. My husband worked for  
20 him. And we enjoyed all the amenities of Louisiana.  
21 The hunting, the fishing. The farming. Everything  
22 else. We were, um, -- we spent a lot of time  
23 outdoors. My kids were raised here. They were  
24 raised on a farm. They also were there with the,  
25 um, oil and gas area.

1           We -- I believe that Louisiana deserves to  
2 get this primacy deal. Because where I was at in  
3 the oilfield, I saw what needed to be done. That we  
4 did need to clean up. There were some definite  
5 places to clean up. And I think that this carbon  
6 capture thing would be the best thing in the world  
7 for Louisiana. And everybody else. Because it'll  
8 end up cleaning up a lot of our air. We won't have  
9 to worry about the things that we're breathing in,  
10 our kids are breathing in, our grandkids are  
11 breathing in. It's the best thing in the world for  
12 us. And I urge y'all to approve this.

13           Thank you.

14           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

15           Steven Upton. Rebecca Parks. Scott  
16 Medine.

17           Okay. We've gone through the list twice  
18 now, so I'm going to go ahead and open it to the  
19 floor. Does anybody want to make a statement right  
20 now?

21           Ma'am? Okay.

22           **CONNIE FABRE:** Good afternoon. My name is  
23 Connie Fabre, and that's F-A-B-R-E.

24           And I'm the president and CEO of the  
25 Greater Baton Rouge Industry Alliance and the New

1 Orleans Region Industry Alliance, which are  
2 nonprofit organizations established in 1970 when the  
3 EPA was formed. And we represent over 100  
4 industrial manufacturing sites in south Louisiana.  
5 Our members are responsible for approximately 64  
6 percent of all jobs in the River Region. And for  
7 this reason, the issue of the proposed rule is  
8 important to our members.

9 Our mission is to bring value to  
10 communities by developing innovative solutions to  
11 common industry issues, advocated with one voice.  
12 The energy transition and carbon capture are issues  
13 that members want to make a difference in, as you've  
14 heard from Shell and BASF. The work of our  
15 association primarily focuses on the exchange and  
16 development of innovative solutions to improve  
17 safety, health, security, environmental performance,  
18 as well as working with the education community,  
19 from high schools, to apprenticeships, trade  
20 schools, and universities, to develop a qualified  
21 pipeline of labor. Additionally, we provide  
22 outreach in communities to provide resources and  
23 information on industrial operations and career  
24 choice guidance.

25 GBRIA supports carbon capture utilization



1 and sequestration and responsible industrial growth  
2 in Louisiana. The proposed rule will allow the  
3 State of Louisiana to regulate carbon capture. CCUS  
4 has been regulated by the Louisiana Department of  
5 Natural Resources for decades through advanced/  
6 enhanced oil recovery, in effect. So it makes sense  
7 at this important time to allow the Louisiana  
8 Department of Natural Resources to issue underground  
9 injection control permits for geologic sequestration  
10 facilities in Class VI wells, and ensure compliance  
11 of the Class VI wells under the UIC program.

12           The State of Louisiana has an  
13 unprecedented opportunity to achieve carbon  
14 reduction goals. Many companies are interested in  
15 building projects to further their objectives, and  
16 Louisiana has the geology and infrastructure to  
17 support sustainable development. The governor has  
18 stated that there are over \$100 billion in projects  
19 that are being announced, and he's put the resources  
20 to the department as committed in order for the  
21 state to be able to grant these permits and oversee  
22 this activity. Louisiana also has the skilled  
23 workforce, education and training facilities, and  
24 apprenticeship programs already established to meet  
25 the demand for building of the new projects.

1 We respectfully request the EPA to grant  
2 the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources the  
3 authority to permit Class VI wells. With this  
4 authority, Louisiana will become the leader in an  
5 efficient energy transition across the industry,  
6 communities, and all aspects of government, and  
7 protect the futures of Louisiana families.

8 Thank you.

9 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

10 Anyone else wants to make a statement?

11 Okay. I'll get you next. Thank you.

12 **GINGER BELANGER:** Hi. My name is Ginger  
13 Belanger -- in French, we say "be-lon-zhay" -- B-E-  
14 L-A-N-G-E-R. And I'm from Houma, Louisiana.

15 I was directly employed in the oil and gas  
16 industry. My family, uh, my dad was in it, um, and  
17 taken -- he had taken us overseas to five countries  
18 to live. And he was very passionate, as I'm very  
19 passionate, about the industry. I value that we  
20 need the next generation to get involved in this  
21 industry. And Houma looks so desolate because of  
22 the industry has gone down, but we pray that we will  
23 be able to get it back up.

24 I support to help Louisiana primacy (sic)  
25 in order to keep the oil and gas industry there --

1 here in Louisiana. And I'm asking y'all to grant  
2 Class VI primacy. And also, um, as I worked on  
3 these -- I also worked in the deepwater division of  
4 the oil and gas industry. And, um, I worked  
5 directly on some of the floors, and as well in the  
6 catering department. I even worked with Transocean  
7 on three rigs then. And my last rig was the  
8 Deepwater Horizon, as we all know. And, um, I was  
9 fortunate, as y'all see here, that I am able to  
10 speak here with that.

11           And I just wanted to say how passionate I  
12 am with this oil and gas industry. I lived it, I  
13 worked in it, and I thrived in it. And I'm doing  
14 this on behalf of my dad, who was more passionate  
15 than anybody, to work in the industry as he did, and  
16 passed it on to one of his children, which, it was  
17 me.

18           I thank y'all so much for giving us this  
19 opportunity.

20           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

21           Okay.

22           **BRIT BOWKER:** Hi. Good afternoon. Thank  
23 y'all for coming. My name is Brit Bowker, B-O-W-K-  
24 E-R.

25           All right. So, hi again. I am Brit

1 Bowker. I am a native of Baton Rouge, and I think  
2 I'm also referred to as a boomerang. After living  
3 in various states and going away to college, I  
4 decided to return home to Louisiana, raise my  
5 family, and continue my career here. The main  
6 reason I made that decision was because I knew that  
7 -- of the vital cultural resources that are located  
8 here, and I wanted to play my part in continuing its  
9 growth.

10 I am a representative of H2theFuture. This  
11 is a grant that is through the EDA. It is  
12 specifically to foster south Louisiana economic and  
13 development growth. Currently, we have lost a lot  
14 of energy positions in this state due to Covid and  
15 various factors, as you probably learned, and this  
16 position has allowed me the opportunity, with 25  
17 other organizations along south Louisiana, to travel  
18 not only United States, but also my team has  
19 traveled internationally, to learn more about how  
20 Louisiana can really take a stronghold in the energy  
21 transition.

22 This grant also represents that the U.S.  
23 government has already acknowledged how special this  
24 energy transition opportunity is for America's  
25 economic future. In awarding Louisiana for this,

1 the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the  
2 Department of Commerce granted the \$50 million, on a  
3 bet, that this economic opportunity is one of  
4 enormous national importance.

5 I like to say that my job, it entails  
6 everything under energy transition. So everything  
7 from wind, solar, biomass -- anything that you can  
8 think of, we touch, because Louisiana has an "all of  
9 the above" approach. We want to ensure that we are  
10 positioning ourselves to help the entire world hit  
11 net zero 2050. I like to use the example of the  
12 "everything bagel". It seems right now that  
13 everybody is working towards not only a smart energy  
14 transition, but also a smart economic growth. And  
15 currently, through my experience, CCUS is the first  
16 step of getting us towards that net zero goal, and  
17 it's the first actual item that we can actually move  
18 the needle here in south Louisiana.

19 The concerns are legitimate, and I just  
20 want to make sure that everyone realizes that we are  
21 all placing our own families and entrusting the  
22 Department of Natural Resources to safeguard our  
23 families and the communities that they live, because  
24 this is their community and families that they  
25 protect.

1 I want to thank you all again, and I want  
2 to show my support of CCUS.

3 Thank you.

4 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

5 Anybody else care to make a statement?

6 Anyone?

7 Okay. So it looks like --

8 **SPEAKER:** I'll go ahead and go. Sorry.

9 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** All right.

10 **SARA SPIZALE:** Hello. I'm Sara Spizale.

11 That last name is spelled S-P-I-Z-A-L-E.

12 So, a little bit about me. I'm from  
13 Louisiana. Born and raised. I have no direct  
14 connection with the oil and gas industry. I'm just  
15 here to speak, you know, my view on this situation.

16 So, the oil and gas industry produces over  
17 6,000 products. And it would be nice to have solar  
18 wind and all of that, really quick, affordable, and,  
19 you know, easy access. Recently -- and I have the  
20 email here -- on a quote for solar panels on my  
21 house, the quote was \$70,800 to have solar panels  
22 put on my house for clean energy. I don't know  
23 about y'all, but there's not many people that can  
24 afford over 70,000 for solar panels put on their  
25 house. Um, it would take 30 years to pay it off,

1 and I would basically break even, unless there's,  
2 like, inflation on gas prices by then.

3 Back to the 6,000 products, over 6,000  
4 products that the oil and gas industry provides  
5 every day, that we need day-to-day. How I arrived  
6 to this meeting today? With a -- on a vehicle.  
7 Vehicle with tires. Automotive, um, parts. Car  
8 enamel. Oil filters. All of that is all part of  
9 the oil and gas industry, what they provide. What  
10 are we wearing today? Thank God we all have clothes  
11 on, right? Because that's one derivative of -- as  
12 well. Along with, um, eyeglasses. Eye wear.  
13 Shoes. How are we feeling today? How are we  
14 smelling today? Deodorant. Detergent. Toothpaste.  
15 Toothbrush. Hearing aids. Heart valves.  
16 Pharmaceuticals. And by the way, there's -- you  
17 know, there's only a few that I'm actually touching  
18 on. This is a list that is provided by the U.S.  
19 Department of Energy. Fossil energy.

20 It would be nice to have clean energy, um,  
21 and I believe that all of the companies are trying  
22 their best. But to pull the rug out of something  
23 that is readily available and cheap for the American  
24 consumer right now, would be dead wrong and hurtful  
25 to our economy and the jobs that it provides right

1 now.

2 That's all. Thank you so much for your  
3 time.

4 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

5 Anyone else? Anyone else?

6 Okay. Well, it looks now that we've run  
7 out of speakers. So what we are going to do is  
8 we're going to stand down for a while until we get a  
9 speaker, and then we'll go back on the record.  
10 You're more than welcome to stick around, but, until  
11 we get a new speaker, we'll just go ahead and be off  
12 the air. Okay? Thank you.

13 **(Off record at 1:39 p.m.)**

14 **(On record at 2:21 p.m.)**

15 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Let's go back on the  
16 record.

17 Ma'am, please spell your full name, and  
18 note that you have three minutes to give your  
19 statement, okay?

20 **BARBARA FREIBERG:** All right. My name is  
21 Barbara, B-A-R-B-A-R-A, Freiberg, F-R-E-I-B-E-R-G.

22 Um -- so that's the information you need, correct?

23 I'm going to begin by saying I am a state  
24 legislator. I'm a state representative for an area  
25 here in Baton Rouge, south of the gates of the LSU



1 campus. I was part of the legislative session that  
2 was very much in support of carbon capture, and  
3 voted for the bills that would allow our state to  
4 move forward in that direction.

5 I will tell you that my main purpose for  
6 being here today is to ask for primacy in permitting  
7 from the EPA so that our state can expedite the  
8 drilling of carbon sequestration wells here in our  
9 state. I will tell you that the number one thing  
10 that I think is important to keep in mind, is that  
11 the legislature was -- the majority of the  
12 legislature was in support of carbon capture this  
13 past session. I've been looking at it for a couple  
14 of years. I know there are controversies. But I  
15 first of all want to say we've been a leader in  
16 capturing crude oil and the -- the chemical industry  
17 for over a hundred years. We've been taking carbon  
18 out of the ground. We ought to be the best to know  
19 how to put it back in the ground. I think the U.S.  
20 depends on Louisiana for energy, but we can't  
21 continue to sustain our petrochemical companies and  
22 also cut emissions if we don't do something about  
23 carbon, if we don't capture the carbon and do  
24 something with it.

25 Another thing I would say is that we have

1 a coastline that's being rebuilt all the time. Our  
2 marshlands and wetlands are being expanded, and they  
3 are natural banks for carbon that we have on our  
4 coast.

5 And I'm watching; I have a minute and 24  
6 seconds left.

7 I would say that, you know, carbon capture  
8 is -- is important, very important to us in  
9 Louisiana. And we've talked about it, um, as it  
10 affects us economically, both for our petrochemical  
11 industry and for our, um, sustainability of a lot of  
12 other things that we do in this state that depend on  
13 the petrochemical industry. And we want to be part  
14 of capturing the emissions that we're putting out,  
15 and putting them back into the ground. There's been  
16 some controversy in some of our parishes because I  
17 think some of the plants went to people late, as far  
18 as giving them information about what was going to  
19 be going on. But I do believe that the majority of  
20 our state favors this and would love your support in  
21 allowing us to expedite the permitting.

22 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

23 **BARBARA FREIBERG:** Thank you.

24 So do you get to ask me questions? No.

25 Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

1 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

2 Off the record.

3 **(Off record at 2:25 p.m.)**

4 **(On record at 2:39 p.m.)**

5 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Let's go back on the  
6 record.

7 Please spell your full name, and please  
8 remember you have three minutes to give your  
9 statement, okay?

10 **RALPH BENDER:** Thank you very much, sir.  
11 My name is Ralph Bender, B-E-N-D-E-R. I'm here as a  
12 representative of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, of  
13 which I am a board member and long-term volunteer.

14 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Go ahead, sir.

15 **RALPH BENDER:** I am going to speak to you  
16 for a moment as a businessman. I know you've heard  
17 a lot about science on both sides of this position.  
18 But as a long-term volunteer, trying to diversify  
19 our economy and improve the quality of life for  
20 people in this area, I am a strong proponent that  
21 this is a -- a great opportunity for Louisiana, not  
22 only to improve our environmental quality, but also  
23 to take a large leadership step ahead of other  
24 states who traditionally beat us in technology and  
25 scientific endeavors, and become a leader in not

1 just the -- the United States, but in the world in -  
2 - in this area of science.

3 I believe strongly that by aligning the  
4 resources who are taking leadership roles in this,  
5 we will not only see economic development and  
6 leadership through industry in this state, but we  
7 will also see, on the academic side, growth in the  
8 number of non-industrial but academic jobs that will  
9 result of a world leadership position.

10 Thank you very much for your time.

11 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, sir.

12 Off the record.

13 **(Off record at 2:41 p.m.)**

14 **(On record at 3:07 p.m.)**

15 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Let's go back on the  
16 record.

17 Sir, are you here to make a statement?

18 **SPEAKER:** Yes.

19 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Yes. Please have a seat.  
20 Please spell your full name, and remember that you  
21 have three minutes to make your statement. Okay?

22 **GLENN BUTT:** Okay. Glenn, G-L-E-N-N,  
23 Arthur, A-R-T-H-U-R, Butt, B-U-T-T.

24 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Go ahead, sir.

25 **GLENN BUTT:** Okay.

1 Carbon capture and sequestration has been  
2 sold to the legislatures as an ideal solution, where  
3 you get to do what you're doing now, and then add  
4 something behind it after the combustion, to take  
5 out the carbon dioxide. But to show you how this  
6 has worked out in the past, let's discuss the Gorgon  
7 project in western Australia. This is the largest  
8 carbon capture and storage project ever attempted.  
9 It was sold as being capable of 80 percent  
10 efficiency of carbon removal, but it's only achieved  
11 40 percent. This was a \$2 billion project that is  
12 getting less than 50 percent carbon removal.

13 Similarly, near us in Louisiana, the Petra  
14 Nova project in Texas, and the Kemper project in  
15 Mississippi, were both billion-dollar disasters, and  
16 they no longer operate. Of the 17 largest carbon  
17 capture and storage projects in the last 15 years,  
18 three-quarters of them failed and had to be closed.

19 We are hearing promises right now of 80 to  
20 90 percent efficiency. But where are these coming  
21 from? These kinds of results have only occurred  
22 with liquified natural gas and fertilizer companies.  
23 And they're not talking about post combustion. What  
24 they're -- what they do is they remove CO2  
25 contaminants in the natural gas, and this can be

1 done to 90 percent. But it's not the same chemical  
2 processes. And then they have to remove that CO2  
3 before they can liquefy it. The problem is, is that  
4 once they reconstitute the natural gas, then it gets  
5 burned, and, overall, you're saving less than 20  
6 percent. And we're -- there's proposals to build  
7 like nine LNG facilities in Louisiana. They will  
8 not stop climate warming.

9 Realistically, we can expect post  
10 combustion carbon removal on the order of 40 to 60  
11 percent, from the historical perspective. Carbon  
12 capture and storage is a very expensive half-measure  
13 that will not stop the coming climate catastrophe.

14 Thank you for your consideration.

15 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, sir.

16 Sir, please come up.

17 **ROBERT SULLIVAN:** My name is Robert, R-O-  
18 B-E-R-T, Desmarais, D-E-S-M-A-R-A-I-S -- that's D-E-  
19 S-M-A-R-A-I-S -- Sullivan.

20 I live in New Orleans, Louisiana. I was  
21 born in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The Desmarais  
22 family arrived in Louisiana 300 years ago. And I'm  
23 the first since that time to speak English as a  
24 native language. In my part of Louisiana, there was  
25 no need for English in my childhood.

1 In my 80 years, I've come to two  
2 conclusions about this project. One has to do with  
3 the credibility of the Department of Natural  
4 Resources and the DEQ. The other has to do with the  
5 geology of south Louisiana itself.

6 On a Zoom meeting with the assistant  
7 director, I believe her title is, of District 6 of  
8 the EPA -- am I saying those terms right?

9 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Uh-huh.

10 **ROBERT SULLIVAN:** I told her then, and I  
11 will tell you now, that I do not believe that our  
12 government in this state is independent enough from  
13 the petrochemical industry to be worthy of our  
14 trust. And I begged her on that meeting to be sure  
15 that the EPA continued its involvement and  
16 surveillance of our government. They will tell you  
17 that only they are the ones capable of making good  
18 decisions. They are not. I have seen so many poor  
19 decisions made. I left Lake Charles when I was 20,  
20 when they told me I could no longer swim in the  
21 lake. A lady in California, looking for a likely  
22 spot to investigate, had her computer pick a site  
23 most likely to answer her questions about why people  
24 voted in politics against their own best interests.  
25 Her computer picked Lake Charles. When I found I

1 couldn't swim in the lake, I came to New Orleans.

2 And I believe that's why I'm still alive at 80.

3           On the geology of the state, there is no  
4 possibility that this state, where Bayou Corne  
5 erupted out of nowhere just five years ago, is going  
6 to be able to contain liquid carbon dioxide under  
7 high pressure. It will not happen. What happened  
8 in north Mississippi last year, or two years ago,  
9 will happen here. The ground will settle. The  
10 pipes will crack. And explosions will take place.  
11 And I do not want to see any more happen to my state  
12 than I have already seen.

13           And with that, gentlemen, I thank you for  
14 listening, and I rest my case.

15           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, sir.

16           Is there anybody else that wants to make a  
17 statement?

18           Sir? Yes, sir. Thank you.

19           **WILL NORMAN:** Good afternoon. My name is  
20 Will Norman. I am a Baton Rouge resident, here  
21 today representing myself and SWCA Environmental  
22 Consultants, in declaring our support for granting  
23 primacy to the State of Louisiana in the regulation  
24 and oversight of the UIC program for Class VI  
25 injection wells involved in carbon capture and



1 storage activities.

2 We believe that granting Louisiana primacy  
3 in this area will promote effective management of  
4 carbon emissions, ensure safety and local control  
5 measures over any issues that may arise, and help  
6 the United States achieve its global carbon  
7 reduction goals.

8 Thank you.

9 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

10 Is there anybody else?

11 Okay. We're going to go off the record  
12 for a while.

13 **(Off record at 3:15 p.m.)**

14 **(On record at 3:45 p.m.)**

15 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Can we go back on the  
16 record.

17 Ma'am, spell out your full name for us,  
18 and note that you have three minutes to give your  
19 statement. Okay? Thank you.

20 **MARGIE VICKNAIR-PRAY:** All right. My name  
21 is Margie Vicknair-Pray. It's M-A-R-G-I-E, last  
22 name is V-I-C-K-N-A-I-R, hyphen Pray, P-R-A-Y.

23 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. Are you ready? Go  
24 ahead.

25 **MARGIE VICKNAIR-PRAY:** All right.

1 I was listening to the testimonies online.  
2 And I found it funny that so many people that are  
3 against this were giving facts and statistics and --  
4 and actual reality of what would happen, or what  
5 could happen with the CCS storage. And I heard so  
6 many people on the other side saying, Hey, it's  
7 great for the -- for business, for oil and gas, and  
8 great for, um, football, and fishing. And I'm like,  
9 Okay, wait. I guess I'll go testify.

10 I'm with the Sierra Club. I represent the  
11 Delta Chapter of Sierra Club, which is the State of  
12 Louisiana. And I heard that someone else had said  
13 they were a Sierra Club person, who was not, and not  
14 representing us. So I do officially represent the  
15 Delta Chapter.

16 I have -- people talk about how long  
17 they've been here. My family literally has been  
18 here, on both sides, since 1720. So I've got like  
19 twelve generations of people on both sides of the  
20 family that have been in Louisiana. I have been  
21 fighting this for 40 years, where I have been active  
22 in the environment, as a volunteer, usually. I  
23 started the beach sweeps in Louisiana, cleaning up  
24 the beaches. I worked on a lot of other programs to  
25 help clean up things. And with the Sierra Club,

1 I've been involved in several lawsuits through the  
2 Sierra Club, the Delta Chapter.

3 Big question here is whether EPA truly  
4 believes that Louisiana is capable of controlling  
5 and -- and having primacy and doing what's supposed  
6 to be done. And I have to tell you, from my 40  
7 years of experience, the answer is absolutely no.  
8 The Sierra Club has -- we had one lawsuit against  
9 the EPA to force them to force Louisiana to  
10 implement the dissolved oxygen regulations, because  
11 Louisiana DEQ was about ready to say go ahead and  
12 dump more sewage into the rivers and kill more fish  
13 and crawfish and everything else, and we had to  
14 fight to stop that from happening. So many of my  
15 years doing this have been fighting with the State  
16 of Louisiana to try to make them do a better thing.  
17 And in light of the Supreme Court last month taking  
18 federal regulation away from our wetlands, that  
19 scares me a lot, because that means the state is  
20 going to be responsible for regulating wetlands,  
21 which is scary. And our state has a history of not  
22 regulating and not doing the right thing. And I'm  
23 hoping that you realize that and do not allow the  
24 state to have primacy in this decision.

25 I'm not anti oil and gas. Unfortunately I

1 know we need it to run. But I am anti allowing the  
2 industry to run the state, which is what happens  
3 today. And that's what we need to stop, and what  
4 you need to prohibit.

5 Thank you.

6 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

7 **(Off the record at 3:49 p.m.)**

8 **(On record at 4:16 p.m.)**

9 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Back on the record.

10 Sir, please give us your full name; spell  
11 your last name, and please note that you have three  
12 minutes to give your statement. Okay?

13 **ALAN ESTERLY:** Thank you. My name is Alan  
14 Richard Esterly, E-S-T-E-R-L-Y.

15 I've lived in Louisiana now for a couple  
16 of decades. I'm retired. I own a few small  
17 businesses. None of those businesses deal direct in  
18 the oil and gas industry, but everyone around me is  
19 in the oil and gas industry, from neighbors, to  
20 friends, to -- to everything else. I currently  
21 volunteer a lot of time with, mostly children,  
22 teaching them how to shoot. I do anything from BB  
23 guns, to shooting sporting clays, to just about  
24 everything there is to do, mostly with kids. I just  
25 spent the last three weeks in the woods doing the

1 same thing. So, I've been hot for three weeks. I'm  
2 headed back up there tonight to get all my stuff and  
3 pack it up.

4 I have three children who all graduated  
5 from school here in Louisiana. One at LSU and two  
6 at Southeastern. My daughter is an attorney now.  
7 She went to LSU law school. She's over in DeRidder,  
8 working in the courthouse over there. One of my sons  
9 is a fireman, and another one lives with me; he's  
10 autistic. So they -- they have a variety, but at  
11 the same time, they're affected by the oil and gas  
12 industry.

13 When you look at eliminating part of the  
14 permitting process, you look at speeding things up,  
15 you look at making sure people don't lose their job  
16 in order to wait to get things done. And in fact  
17 that they don't have to stop working to wait -- you  
18 know, in order to meet the executive branch's  
19 requirements as far as carbon or whatever, that one  
20 less step, gives them faster results, gives them  
21 faster way to get thing done, faster ways to move  
22 forward. So I think it's important that they're  
23 able to do that. I think it's important that we're  
24 able to move quicker. Making sure it's in  
25 compliance is great. I mean that should be. It

1 should be a necessity. It shouldn't be -- there  
2 shouldn't be any shortcuts. But having a double  
3 layer -- we used to have a lot of double layers with  
4 guns. We used to have a lot of double layers with a  
5 lot of things that we don't need -- you know, to  
6 register here and register there, or whatever the  
7 case is. If you're reg- -- you know, if you're in  
8 one place, it's done.

9 So I support the oil and gas industry and  
10 I support this process to make it available for the  
11 state to do their own permitting.

12 Thank you.

13 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, sir.

14 Anybody -- sir, you want to come to the  
15 desk? Thank you.

16 **SPEAKER:** All right. How y'all doing  
17 today?

18 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay.

19 **SCOTT MEDINE:** My name is Scott Medine.  
20 Last name M-E-D-I-N-E. I live in Napoleonville,  
21 Louisiana. I'm a pipeline welder. I have been in  
22 the business since I was a young man after being  
23 introduced to the business by my uncle, who also  
24 worked in the industry all of his life. Most of the  
25 people I work with love hunting and fishing, and

1 nature in general.

2           The oil and gas industry is very important  
3 for our community in Louisiana. A lot of people  
4 make their livelihood on it and depend on it for our  
5 families. I support carbon capture because the oil  
6 and gas industry can still be productive, while also  
7 being environmentally safe, which is at the top of  
8 our list. Carbon capture will also work for -- will  
9 produce work for myself and possibly the next  
10 generation of blue-collar workers, from welders to  
11 laborers, and everyone in between, which in turn  
12 would allow us to invest and support in our local --  
13 merchants in our local communities and the pipeline  
14 industry.

15           I urge you to approve Louisiana's  
16 application for primacy for these reasons.

17           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, sir.

18           Is there anybody else that wants to give a  
19 statement?

20           Okay. We'll be off the record.

21           **(Off record at 4:19 p.m.)**

22           **(On record at 4:20 p.m.)**

23           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Back on the record,  
24 please.

25           **SPEAKER:** I'm a little early, so I didn't

1 know if I had to wait for my slot and time.

2 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** No, that's okay. Ma'am,  
3 please state your full name and spell your last  
4 name, and note that you have three minutes to give  
5 your statement, okay?

6 **SPEAKER:** Sure. My name's Donna --

7 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Please, go ahead and have  
8 a seat.

9 **DONNA CARPENTER:** Oh.  
10 My name's Donna Carpenter, C-A-R-P-E-N-T-  
11 E-R. May I begin?

12 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. Go ahead.

13 **DONNA CARPENTER:** Okay. I would like to  
14 thank you for giving me an opportunity to share my  
15 thoughts with you today. I am a Louisiana native,  
16 living here most of my life, except for years my  
17 husband's job brought us to Brazil to manage an  
18 offshore vessel. It was in our move away from the  
19 comforts of home that I was able to begin to  
20 appreciate the depths of this world that God has  
21 blessed us with. During our years in Brazil, we  
22 became best friends with a geologist and his family.  
23 At times, we were able to travel and collect  
24 gemstones, one of the many miracles within our  
25 earth's crust.



1 I've always been deeply rooted in the  
2 oilfield business. As the saying goes down the  
3 bayou, oil runs through our veins. I watched my  
4 father's difficult work as an oilfield rig  
5 roustabout, raising our family of six children.

6 With a seventh-grade education, he taught  
7 himself to weld, and is known as one of the best  
8 aluminum welders around. His perseverance taught us  
9 a good work ethic: Hard work equals success. It is  
10 in this work ethic that allowed us to send our son  
11 to college right here at LSU.

12 One of the many reasons that I agreed to  
13 accept today's invitation is because carbon  
14 emissions are grave and personal to me. It hits  
15 home, especially since my son and his family live  
16 and work in the outskirts of Baton Rouge. They  
17 drink the water and breathe the air that is crucial  
18 -- that's a crucial topic of concern that brought us  
19 here today. Carbon capture will benefit everyone in  
20 some way, shape or form. We all want our water to  
21 remain pristine and our air clear and clean. Many  
22 Louisianians hold the passion to hunt and fish in  
23 this ecosystem we all strive to maintain, this land  
24 we love and refer to as God's country.

25 I'm here to defend this land that I love.

1 We lost a home, as well as our fishing camp, that  
2 was a dream to own and took us years to build. The  
3 bayou country suffered severe devastation from  
4 Hurricane Ida in 2021. Many of us are still in the  
5 repair phase, mourning our piece of nature that's  
6 gone forever, a culture that's fading fast. This  
7 industry is our life. This is all we know. I  
8 worked 23 years for a major boat company, who  
9 employs mariners not only from Louisiana, but who  
10 travel from around the world to work in this  
11 industry that supplies our country its energy. I'm  
12 now a small business owner supporting these same  
13 mariners I worked to help back then, and I helped  
14 them with their Coast Guard documentation. We are  
15 losing our culture and need solutions fast. We need  
16 to maintain our country's energy independence. And  
17 who knows the needs of our people better than our  
18 local state government officials that we elected to  
19 represent us.

20 For this reason, I am asking and urging  
21 you to approve Louisiana's application for Class VI  
22 primacy.

23 Thank you for listening and respecting my  
24 views. May God bless us all, and God bless America.

25 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

1 Anyone else wishing to make a statement?

2 Off the record.

3 **(Off record at 4:24 p.m.)**

4 **(On record at 4:33 p.m.)**

5 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Good afternoon.

6 **SPEAKER:** Good afternoon.

7 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Ma'am, you're here to  
8 make a statement?

9 **SPEAKER:** Yes, sir.

10 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. Please come to the  
11 desk.

12 **SPEAKER:** Okay.

13 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Give us your full name  
14 and spell your last name, and please note you have  
15 three minutes to give your statement. Okay?

16 **SPEAKER:** Yes, sir. Can you just give me  
17 a moment to --

18 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Absolutely. Take all the  
19 time you need.

20 **SPEAKER:** Thank you. But you give me  
21 three minutes. I don't want to use them up.

22 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** No, ma'am. We'll wait  
23 for you when you're ready.

24 **SPEAKER:** Thank you. Excuse me. One more  
25 thing. Sorry.

1           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Please, take your time.

2           **GERALDINE WATKINS:** It's a little warm  
3 outside, so ... Goodness. All right.

4           Now. Okay. Good afternoon. My name is  
5 Mrs. Geraldine Watkins. And that's W-A-T-K-I-N-S. I  
6 reside -- I'm sorry, did you need anything else?

7           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** No, ma'am. You can go  
8 ahead.

9           **GERALDINE WATKINS:** All right.

10           I reside at 104 Apricot Street in Laplace,  
11 Louisiana, which is in St. John the Baptist Parish.  
12 I have lived here with my family close to 75 years.  
13 The first time I arrived here was in 1960. Okay?  
14 The area was quite beautiful. The air was fresh and  
15 clean, and the well water from Montz, Louisiana, was  
16 sweet. Everywhere you looked, people were raising  
17 animals, and huge gardens. Never in my wildest  
18 dream did I think this place would harm my friends  
19 and family. When we arrived here to settle, we  
20 brought our boat with us. My husband purchased a  
21 commercial fishing license so we could fish and  
22 shrimp. Sometimes we used the boat for recreation.

23           Now I hear that the oil and gas companies  
24 are trying to put carbon capture storage wells in  
25 many places, along with many new pipelines that must

1 be run to them, to the wells. If this is allowed,  
2 many beautiful recreational areas will be ruined,  
3 and the livelihood of many families lost. I am  
4 against the carbon infestation -- oh, I'm sorry.  
5 Injection wells, is the word I wanted to use --  
6 being put in any areas. In the interest of  
7 humanity, living in and around all the different  
8 areas, I hope that the children, grandchildren, and  
9 great-grandchildren, would have the opportunity to  
10 live a healthy and productive life.

11 I would also -- I was always taught -- put  
12 it like this: I was always taught, you couldn't put  
13 a price on human life.

14 And the last thing I would like to say is,  
15 thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to  
16 speak before everyone.

17 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

18 **GERALDINE WATKINS:** May I say one more  
19 thing? I'm only 18 years old, I'll have you know.  
20 Turn it around.

21 Okay.

22 **REVEREND GREGORY MANNING:** Good afternoon,  
23 everyone. My name is Reverend Gregory Manning. I'm  
24 the pastor at Broadmoor Community Church, and the  
25 founder and president of the Greater New Orleans

1 Interfaith Climate Coalition. I speak in order that  
2 we might understand that there's a moral obligation  
3 that we protect the citizens of the State of  
4 Louisiana against carbon capture. And what's going  
5 on now is, I've heard the language of "fast-tracked"  
6 several times, and it concerns me, when we're  
7 dealing with something to this gravity and this  
8 extent, that's going to affect a great number of  
9 people and have drastic health impacts for a great  
10 number of people, and -- and affect our earth in an  
11 adverse way, possibly. We cannot fast-track this.  
12 We look at everything else that's being fast-  
13 tracked. The erosion of our coastline is fast-  
14 tracked. The heating up of our waterways and oceans  
15 and seas is being fast-tracked. And we cannot  
16 afford to fast-track this, because we're dealing  
17 with an existential crisis.

18           When we look at giving primacy for carbon  
19 capture and sequestration to our state, we are  
20 looking at something that is unprecedented. When we  
21 look at something like the FAA, and how we control  
22 what goes into our air, and looking at the Federal  
23 Drug Administration, the FDA, we understand that  
24 regulations such as those belong in the hands of the  
25 federal government, and we cannot afford to put it

1 in the hands of the state, because those such things  
2 must be regulated on a larger scale.

3 I believe it is the same for carbon  
4 capture and sequestration as well too. We must  
5 ensure that those regulations stay in the hands of  
6 the federal government. We can trust them more, I  
7 believe, especially since, when we look at the fact  
8 that, if this goes to the state level, then it falls  
9 in the hands of the Department of Natural Resources.  
10 When we look at the Department of Natural Resources,  
11 we see that we have hundreds, if not thousands, of  
12 wells that have -- that there's been a failure, on a  
13 large extent, to cap and to deal with. How can we  
14 put carbon capture and sequestration into the hands  
15 of the DNR when it's already done a very poor job of  
16 making sure that our waterways are kept safe from  
17 oil and failing to cap those?

18 And so, I just urge that we would slow  
19 down and really give greater consideration to this,  
20 because it -- it doesn't mean that we won't ever  
21 give the state primacy. It just means not now.  
22 There's too much at stake. There's too much  
23 consideration, there's too many lives that are at  
24 risk. And we just have not had invested in enough  
25 study to give -- to make this decision at this

1 moment in time.

2 And so, I would urge that we would slow  
3 down, forget about fast-tracking, and figure out a  
4 different way.

5 Thank you very much.

6 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

7 **PETE DIGRE:** Hello. My name is Pete  
8 Digre, D-I-G-R-E, and I'm here speaking on behalf of  
9 the Greater New Orleans Interfaith Climate Coalition  
10 and the Greater New Orleans Climate Reality Project.

11 I'd like to make three points. Number  
12 one, what is proceeding here is very dangerous.  
13 We're talking about high-pressure pipelines  
14 basically running through historic black  
15 communities, that are already heavily burdened with  
16 toxins, to the extent of cancer rate dangers a  
17 thousand times above normal. And we're talking  
18 about putting these pipelines right through these  
19 very same communities. We're also, as Pastor  
20 Manning said, we're talking about injecting into  
21 very porous land, with tens of thousands of wells,  
22 old wells, some capped, many not, many not even  
23 known where they are. So we're talking about  
24 something that is very dangerous, very dangerous  
25 particularly to black and other minority



1 communities.

2           Secondly, we're talking about an unproven  
3 technology. I still -- I've done a lot of research  
4 on this. There are some small pilot projects that  
5 show some signs of success. But nothing that I'm  
6 aware of has really proven that we're talking about  
7 something that's scalable and successful. So we're  
8 talking about something that is very uncertain about  
9 success, as well as being dangerous.

10           Finally, we're talking about a state  
11 government that has proven to be untrustworthy.  
12 Recently, we discovered, in going through data, that  
13 data had been, quote, "smoothed out" -- smoothed out  
14 -- to include broader ranges to make it look like  
15 there were not higher levels of children's asthma  
16 and hospitalization for asthma in areas in fenceline  
17 community. The state had literally deceived the  
18 public and prevented the public from knowing the  
19 reality of the situation. Therefore, I would have to  
20 say the evidence is very substantial. The State of  
21 Louisiana should not be trusted to have primacy.

22           Thank you very much for your time and your  
23 attention.

24           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, sir.

25           Anybody else?

1           **SPEAKER:** Yes. I've got to go.

2           Hi. Good afternoon. My name is Toyjean  
3 (sp.) Carter. I reside in New Orleans. And I'm here  
4 to speak out against the primacy hearing -- I mean  
5 the EPA giving primacy to the State of Louisiana for  
6 carbon capture sequestration.

7           My concerns echo what some of the previous  
8 people have said. And I just want to put a fine  
9 point on the fact that our state has a track record  
10 of leaving behind black and indigenous communities,  
11 in terms of environmental justice. And in fact, I'd  
12 go so far as to call their actions environmentally  
13 racist. And we've seen it over and over again  
14 throughout southern Louisiana, for many of our named  
15 and unnamed, unrecognized tribes, and the black  
16 communities that descended from their enslaved  
17 ancestors along the river. We've seen it in the  
18 infrastructure that's been built up, and the  
19 continued neglect from the Department of Natural  
20 Resources and LDEQ to respond appropriately to when  
21 disaster does happen at those sites. They cannot be  
22 trusted to handle the carbon. Um, like my friend  
23 and colleague Pete said, they cannot be trusted to  
24 handle a technology that's still so unknown. Not at  
25 that level. And then when we think down to the

1 first responders that would have to respond to  
2 something like what happened in Yazoo County,  
3 Mississippi, that -- that -- we're not ready here.  
4 And I don't think we'll ever be ready.

5 So, I have very grave concerns about it,  
6 not just for everyone in the State of Louisiana, but  
7 in particular for my friends in black and indigenous  
8 communities in Louisiana. And that concludes my  
9 remarks.

10 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

11 Anybody else?

12 Okay. So we're going to go off the record  
13 for now until we get new speakers. Thank you.

14 **(Off record at 4:46 p.m.)**

15 **(On record at 4:57 p.m.)**

16 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Let's go back on the  
17 record. Hello, sir. You're here to make a  
18 statement?

19 **SPEAKER:** Yes.

20 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Please come to the table.  
21 Also give us your full name and spell your last name  
22 for the record, and please note that you have three  
23 minutes to state your comment.

24 **DONALD HAYS:** Okay. So, my name is Donald  
25 Hays, spelled H-A-Y-S. And -- I start the comment

1 now?

2 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Yes, sir. Go ahead.

3 **DONALD HAYS:** I've lived here in Baton  
4 Rouge for 43 years. I've worked for the Department  
5 of Economic Development and the Port of South  
6 Louisiana. After retiring from the state, I became  
7 involved in the energy industry, for the past ten  
8 years. And I've been a partner in an independent,  
9 integrated oil and gas exploration and production  
10 company.

11 Louisiana's abundant oil and gas create  
12 thousands of jobs, beginning with exploration and  
13 production, plus support sectors like engineering  
14 and transportation, including pipelines. Oil and  
15 gas are feedstocks for Louisiana's world-class  
16 chemical production, refining, and value-added  
17 processing, like fertilizer, plastics, and LNG, plus  
18 the new, cleaner fuels based on hydrogen.

19 Innovations in the transportation, with  
20 changes in ships, trucks, trains, and even planes,  
21 being designed to operate on hydrogen, methanol, and  
22 ammonia. There are significant opportunities to  
23 improve the state's air quality in every one of  
24 these sectors I just mentioned. We need to be  
25 aggressive and -- and accelerate the process. We

1 need to allow this process to be handled locally, in  
2 Louisiana, by Louisiana, and for Louisiana. Sure,  
3 this can be an emotional topic, but the science is  
4 proven and solid.

5           There are two popular options currently  
6 utilized to deal with capture and storage of CO2.  
7 One is to utilize CO2 for enhanced oil recovery, and  
8 the other is permanent sequestration. In my  
9 opinion, both need to be given serious  
10 consideration. Many of these downstream processes  
11 have been significant generators of CO2. One of the  
12 fastest ways to begin reducing the amount of CO2  
13 impacting the air quality in a positive way, is to  
14 capture and store the CO2 generated by producing oil  
15 and gas and downstream processing by the leading  
16 industries.

17           In Louisiana, we need to move quickly to  
18 save jobs and improve the environment. This process  
19 need to be regulated by the same agency that  
20 oversees other issues related to the subsurface, the  
21 Department of Natural Resources. We need a one-stop  
22 shop.

23           I urge you to move forward in granting  
24 Louisiana primacy for permitting carbon storage.

25           Thank you.

1           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, sir.

2           **SALLY HAYS:** My name is Sally Hays, H-A-Y-  
3 S, and I am not so eloquent as my husband. I don't  
4 know all those details, but I support primacy. And  
5 I just wanted to go on record.

6           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

7                     Anyone else at this time?

8                     Okay. So it is five. This session is  
9 officially closed. The next session will begin at 6  
10 p.m. Thank you.

11                    **(Off record at 5:01 p.m.)**

12                    **(On record at 5:58 p.m.)**

13           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Good afternoon,  
14 everybody. The session eight will begin now. It's  
15 6 o'clock. Unfortunately, I don't think I see any  
16 of the speakers who are registered. Nevertheless,  
17 so that we have a clear record, I'm going to go  
18 ahead and name them. So just please bear with me.  
19 And this is for the people that are in the audience.

20                    Dewanna Goodman. Donna Phillippe. John  
21 Diez. Bridgette Deville. Donna Crowell. Chucky  
22 LeJeune. Clare Giesen. Cathy Roberts. Shelley  
23 Johnson. Keith Duhon. Josiah Jones. John  
24 Covington. Demond Lee. And Kayanga.

25                    Nobody. Okay. So, we're going to go

1 ahead and just get off the record for now until we  
2 get new speakers. Okay? Thank you.

3 (Off record at 5:59 p.m.)

4 (On record at 6:00 p.m.)

5 MR. ARMENDARIZ: Sir, please give us your  
6 full name and spell out your last name, and please  
7 remember you have three minutes for your statement,  
8 sir. Okay?

9 EDWARD PATTERSON: My name's Edward Lee  
10 Patterson, IV. That's P-A-T-T-E-R-S-O-N.

11 And just, I have a more general comment on  
12 carbon capture in general. I just wanted to say  
13 that it's not based on sound science. And as we've  
14 seen over and over again, right in that same area,  
15 these companies want to come in, make their money,  
16 and then put the -- while putting the -- mostly low-  
17 income people in the area at -- their health and  
18 safety at risk. They're going to make their money,  
19 then when something goes wrong, the Louisiana public  
20 is going to have to pay the price. And, um, there's  
21 going to be no one to take responsibility for it  
22 once the damage is done.

23 MR. ARMENDARIZ: Thank you.

24 Miss, do you want to give a statement?

25 SPEAKER: Yes, sir.

1           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. Please come to the  
2 table. Please give us your full name, spell your  
3 last name. Remember, you have three minutes. Okay?

4           **JILL TUPITZA:** Yes, thank you. My name is  
5 Jill Tupitza. I'm here with Louisiana Against False  
6 Solutions, but I'm a Ph.D. candidate in oceanography  
7 and coastal sciences. My last name is T, as in Tom,  
8 U-P-I-T-Z-A. And my specific study area is  
9 Louisiana coastal wetlands, which are at risk  
10 because of carbon injection wells.

11           I would like to start off by saying DNR  
12 should not gain regulatory control over Class IV  
13 carbon wells. These wells should not even be built  
14 in the first place, mostly because they are largely  
15 untested, highly risky, and not a viable climate  
16 solution. The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate  
17 Change, or the IPCC, 2022 report, backs me up on  
18 this, warning that this type of reliance on CCS  
19 technology, such as injection wells, is not viable  
20 for this very reason, because it is risky,  
21 completely untested, and not an actual climate  
22 solution.

23           On top of that, the Department of Natural  
24 Resources in Louisiana is unresourced, understaffed,  
25 and has a strong record of failure in regulating



1 even existing oil and gas infrastructure. I'm a  
2 coastal ecologist; I see this every day. My study  
3 system is the coastal wetlands in five different  
4 basins across Louisiana. And while many of them are  
5 very beautiful and tourist destinations, places  
6 where people can peacefully fish, it is peppered  
7 more or less with abandoned debris from oil and gas  
8 infrastructure, and DNR is not regulating these.  
9 They pose a harm to my team as scientists, as well  
10 as to the community, and the ecology of the area.

11 On top of that, these injection wells pose  
12 a huge human health violation. CO2 is dangerous,  
13 causes death and respiratory arrest, for residents  
14 as well as emergency responders trying to make the  
15 situation better. And inevitable leaks, bursts, and  
16 explosions will harm communities, particularly  
17 communities of color and those marginalized  
18 traditionally, and it will violate their right to  
19 the clean environment which the EPA is here to  
20 protect.

21 So on that final note, I implore you to  
22 consider all of the risks in allowing permits for  
23 Class IV injection wells, um, and that they are far  
24 too high for the EPA to condone.

25 Thank you.

1           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

2           Um, Miss? Miss? Quick question. Just to  
3 clarify, were you talking about Class C?

4           **MR. USSERY:** Class VI.

5           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Class VI.

6           **JILL TUPITZA:** Yes. Did I say another  
7 number?

8           **MR. USSERY:** Four.

9           **JILL TUPITZA:** Not those. Six.

10          **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay, got it. Class VI.  
11 Okay.

12          Anybody else? Anybody here to give a  
13 statement for now?

14          Okay. Then we'll be off the record until  
15 another speaker comes in.

16                   **(Off record at 6:04 p.m.)**

17                   **(On record at 6:31 p.m.)**

18          **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Let's get back on the  
19 record.

20          Sir, please give us your full name and  
21 spell your last name for us, and please note you  
22 have three minutes to give your statement. Okay?

23                   **LLOYD LANDRY:** My name's Lloyd James  
24 Landry, Jr. And what else you needed?

25          **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Your last name, could you

1 spell your last --

2 **LLOYD LANDRY:** Oh, spell it?

3 L-A-N-D-R-Y.

4 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** And we are ready when you  
5 are, sir; okay?

6 **LLOYD LANDRY:** Yes, sir.

7 My name's Lloyd Landry. I'm 69 years old.  
8 I live in Plaquemine. My family has lived in this  
9 area for 268 years. We came here from Nova Scotia  
10 in 1755 by way of the Great Deportation. The English  
11 won the French and Indian War, and we wouldn't swear  
12 allegiance to England. So they put our families on  
13 crowded ships, sailed down the East Coast, around  
14 the tip of Florida, through the Gulf of Mexico, up  
15 the Mississippi River, and dropped us at different  
16 locations along the river from New Orleans to New  
17 Roads. We adapted to the land and the environment,  
18 and are still thriving today.

19 In 1940, oil and gas exploration came to  
20 the area. This brought great-paying jobs to the  
21 people, and brought us into the 20th century. We  
22 were able to purchase cars and trucks, buy land,  
23 build houses, and allow our children to finish  
24 school, go to college or trade school. The river  
25 and the abundance of oil and gas brought in the

1 chemical industry and the boon of the sixties and  
2 the seventies. I worked from 1973 to 2016 in the  
3 petrochemical industry. I began work in the  
4 construction field, starting out as a pipefitter  
5 apprentice, then a journeyman pipefitter, then a  
6 pipe welder. I worked up into supervisor, and  
7 advanced into engineering as a piping field  
8 engineer, and retired as a senior piping designer.  
9 I've made a great living in the petrochemical  
10 industry. My son graduated from LSU in 2003 as a  
11 mechanical engineer, and has a great job at a  
12 chemical plant in Plaquemine. The petrochemical  
13 industry is the heartbeat of the state, and there's  
14 roughly 3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas left in  
15 the U.S. alone. At today's consumption rate, it's  
16 86 years of dry natural gas.

17           The fuel stock for making energy, along  
18 with 6,000 products made from natural gas and oil  
19 through the chemical industry that we consume on a  
20 daily basis, the petrochemical industry is the blood  
21 that runs through the veins of Louisiana. And I ask,  
22 as a citizen of the state, for the EPA to approve  
23 the application for Class VI primacy under the Safe  
24 Drinking Water Act underground injection control  
25 program. This will speed up the process of issuing

1 the CCS permits and will help achieve the state's  
2 climate action program's plan of the net zero  
3 emissions by 2050. And I support carbon capture in  
4 Louisiana.

5 Thank you.

6 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, Mr. Landry.

7 Anyone else? Anyone else care to make a  
8 statement?

9 **SPEAKER:** I do have other people coming.  
10 They're waiting.

11 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** That's fine. We're going  
12 to go off the record for a while. When you're ready  
13 sir, just let us know.

14 (Off record at 6:35 p.m.)

15 (On record at 6:58 p.m.)

16 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** All right. Let's go back  
17 on the record.

18 Sir, please state your full name, spell  
19 your last name, and please note you have three  
20 minutes to make your comment. Okay?

21 **ANTON BRADFORD:** All right. Anton  
22 Bradford, II. B-R-A-D-F-O-R-D. And hello everyone  
23 -- can I start?

24 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. Ready, sir?

25 **ANTON BRADFORD:** So, hello. My name is

1 Anton Bradford, II. I am here today to express  
2 well-justified concern in regards to the EPA giving  
3 Louisiana permitting authority over carbon injection  
4 wells.

5 Louisiana is already a state that is --  
6 consistently deals with the nature-based issues such  
7 as consistent floods, hurricanes, and even much of  
8 the southern states being built upon marshes and  
9 swamps. The ground cannot stand any more damage  
10 being done to it just for a few more dollars.  
11 Louisiana has always attempted to, quote-unquote,  
12 keep up with other states in economy -- in the  
13 economy by selling out to companies for money. The  
14 carbon injection wells do not benefit the cities in  
15 the least. It would be a gateway to recreational  
16 areas, living areas, and animal habitats, being  
17 uprooted and destroyed for experimental dollars.  
18 Any citizen could be asked about this topic, and 90  
19 percent of them that are not involved in any of  
20 these works would not have a clue what we are  
21 talking about. The lack of public knowledge to  
22 their own safety is insanity. It should not be the  
23 job of organizations to express information of the  
24 public safety being interfered with. It is about  
25 time Louisiana starts caring about its citizens'

1 well-being, and not corporation dollars. I ask you  
2 all to not grant authority to the State of  
3 Louisiana.

4 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, sir.

5 Anybody else at this time?

6 **SPEAKER:** Hi. What do I need to do?

7 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Just your full name,  
8 spell your last name, and note that you have three  
9 minutes to make your comment.

10 **LOGAN WOLF:** Sure. Logan Wolf, W-O-L-F.

11 I am a native of St. Mary Parish. Next-  
12 door is Assumption Parish, where, due to government  
13 ceding regulations to corporations, an enormous  
14 sinkhole took place there and, um, forced residents  
15 out of their homes. And I fear if the EPA cedes  
16 their authority to the State of Louisiana, that this  
17 could happen all over the place.

18 In my opinion, carbon capture is a  
19 convenient way for industry to say that they're  
20 doing something about the waste that they're  
21 producing, without making a positive difference. In  
22 fact, it would probably cause more damage, um,  
23 because it's costly and inefficient. Carbon capture  
24 technologies are often expensive to implement and  
25 operate. The process of capturing carbon dioxide

1 from industrial emissions or directly from the  
2 atmosphere requires substantial infrastructure and  
3 energy, which can lead to significant financial  
4 costs.

5           Moreover, the efficiency of the current  
6 carbon capture methods is relatively low, resulting  
7 in high energy penalty for power plants or  
8 industrial facilities using the technology. It  
9 diverts resources. Critics argue that investing in  
10 carbon capture takes away resources and attention  
11 from developing and implementing renewable energy  
12 sources, instead of focusing on reducing carbon  
13 emissions at their source. Carbon capture can be  
14 seen as a way to prolong the use of fossil fuels and  
15 maintain the status quo. Some believe that these  
16 resources would be better spent on sustainable  
17 alternatives rather than prolonging reliance on  
18 fossil fuels.

19           There are tons of environmental risks.  
20 While carbon capture aims to reduce greenhouse gas  
21 emissions, there are concerns of potential  
22 environmental risks associated with the technology.  
23 The storage of captured carbon dioxide underground  
24 in depleted oil and gas fields or deep geological  
25 formations carries the risk of leaks or accidental



1 releases. If stored improperly, carbon dioxide can  
2 escape and potentially contribute to environmental  
3 damage or harm to human health. Even states with  
4 carbon capture facilities have experienced seismic  
5 activity. And so, of course that's a concern.

6           It's also a moral hazard, and it delays  
7 action. Carbon capture has been criticized for  
8 creating a moral hazard by providing a false sense  
9 of security. If governments, industries, and  
10 individuals believe that carbon capture can solve  
11 the climate crisis, they may be less motivated to  
12 pursue other urgent actions.

13           I'm asking the EPA to maintain their  
14 primacy over the state and not give it to Louisiana.

15           Thank you.

16           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you. Anybody else  
17 at this time?

18           **JOSEPH COOK:** Hello. My name is Joseph  
19 Cook. I reside here in Baton Rouge. And I just  
20 want to personally say "no" to carbon injections,  
21 known as carbon capture storage. That fact that  
22 Louisiana wants to get a permit to put all these  
23 dangerous chemicals into the ground just doesn't sit  
24 well with me, as I'm sure it doesn't for a lot of  
25 people in the State of Louisiana. This process does

1 not only affect me, but everyone in the state. And  
2 we know this because of previous states that already  
3 had this process done in their communities. which  
4 has caused a lot of problems such as pipe ruptures  
5 and earthquakes and leaks, and these problems can,  
6 um, contaminate the environment, like, for example,  
7 a ruptured pipe leak. The carbon dioxide will  
8 affect our oxygen, that we as people need to  
9 breathe. Not to mention mixing our water sources  
10 and whatnot, and it's just a -- it's hazardous and  
11 it's dangerous, not to mention that this new law is  
12 in conflict with the EPA's federal requirements.  
13 And deciding for this to come into effect is just  
14 downright irresponsible and reckless. And I don't  
15 stand behind it. And also, I'm just going to have  
16 to say no to Class VI injection wells. Because who  
17 knows, um, how many problems or long-term effects it  
18 will cause in the future, and that's just something  
19 that we shouldn't risk.

20 Thank you.

21 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

22 **SPEAKER:** Hello. Good evening. Thank you  
23 for the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is  
24 Caitlyn Joshua (sp.) and I am a resident of  
25 Ascension Parish. I'm here today to ask that you

1 all reconsider granting primacy authority to the  
2 State of Louisiana.

3 As of last December, when I first  
4 participated in a hearing regarding injection wells  
5 in Lake Maurepas, I became increasingly concerned of  
6 the dangers of carbon capture and storage and the  
7 threat it poses to our land, water, and future. I've  
8 been organizing a great deal of parents, educators,  
9 and residents of Ascension on this issue, and many  
10 have opted to sign petitions against carbon capture  
11 and storage, and then asking for more transparency  
12 around this technology.

13 Carbon dioxide, as we know, is hazardous,  
14 and according to the National Institute of Health,  
15 carbon dioxide is an asphyxiant and toxic, which  
16 means it can displace oxygen in the air when we need  
17 it to breathe. High concentrations of carbon  
18 dioxide can result in death, and within one minute  
19 of CO2 poisoning, a person can pass out and suffer  
20 respiratory arrest. In fact, just a few months ago  
21 I was able to engage Chief Jerry Briggs of  
22 Mississippi and met with him and a few of the fire  
23 chiefs in my parish, to talk about the risks  
24 associated with CO2 pipelines and what measures  
25 could be in place to handle leaks or ruptures. A

1 great deal of them repeatedly stated they are  
2 trained on existing pipelines at a certain pressure,  
3 but this new technology would require a lot more  
4 training and a lot more capacity for what they  
5 currently have, as many of them are volunteer fire  
6 departments. Carbon dioxide can also break down  
7 rocks underground, and like an earthquake, cause  
8 things to shift above ground. Louisiana has  
9 numerous fault lines that increase the potential for  
10 earthquakes incidents occurring from carbon waste  
11 injection. We can look to examples in Oklahoma and  
12 other part of the world for this.

13 Oil and gas companies have also lobbied to  
14 shift liability for damages caused by carbon dioxide  
15 waste injection to the State of Louisiana, to the  
16 people of Louisiana. If this practice is so  
17 extremely safe and proven, then why would that type  
18 of liability be warranted?

19 And lastly, the Louisiana Department of  
20 Natural Resources has a record of failure. We know  
21 that permanent underground storage of carbon dioxide  
22 has never been done before successfully, and  
23 involves significant risks for communities and our  
24 environment. Yet corporations in Louisiana are  
25 opting for this false solution without any pause or

1 regard for our health and safety. Allowing for the  
2 EPA to give Louisiana permitting authority over  
3 Class injection wells (sic) would be an open season  
4 for all proposed CCS projects in the State of  
5 Louisiana, and we implore y'all to not support that.  
6 We simply cannot afford to invest in any more false  
7 alternatives and solutions in this state.

8           Again, please put the Louisiana people  
9 first and say no to primacy authority.

10           Thank you.

11           **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

12           Anybody else here to make a statement?

13           **ANGELLE BRADFORD:** All right. I am her  
14 twin sister, so I will try and sound like me.

15           Okay. So, good evening. My name is  
16 Angelle. Angelle Bradford. I just want to point  
17 out, I signed up for earlier, and then I'm coming  
18 tonight because I decided to come afterwards. So.

19           I am a resident here in southeast  
20 Louisiana. I wanted to take my time to highlight  
21 the many ways in which LDNR has already failed us  
22 and why they do not deserve primacy. Not only have  
23 they been sued for exempting Venture Global for  
24 obtaining a coastal use permit for development of  
25 its LNG facility in Plaquemines, LDNR, despite

1 countless community objections to the drilling of a  
2 well in Lake Maurepas, did nothing to stop Air  
3 Products and their army of lobbyists. Additionally,  
4 per analysis conducted by the EDF, the Louisiana  
5 government missed out on millions of dollars in  
6 revenue in 2019 due to the 27 billion cubic feet of  
7 oil and gas methane waste from Louisiana's 31,000  
8 active onshore wells.

9           If LDNR is saying that they can process  
10 these applications more quickly than the federal  
11 government, though they woefully lack staff and  
12 capacity, please believe them. They will process  
13 these applications right out the door without a  
14 second thought to who they impact, which  
15 neighborhoods these projects go into, and which  
16 communities are gettings destroyed.

17           My late grandparents and my late paternal  
18 grandfather raised my parents right up the road from  
19 here in Scotlandville. So north of here. This state  
20 took stability and took community away from families  
21 like mine, who lived in that area, when they ran the  
22 interstate through our neighborhoods. They built --  
23 "they" as in Louisiana -- massive plants that have  
24 near zero accountability in regard for the land,  
25 water, and earth, and now they want to sell us this

1 same game.

2           Folks ask me all the time, Well, why can't  
3 we meet somewhere in the middle? But there is no  
4 middle ground when it comes to stopping an explosive  
5 pipeline. There is no middle ground when it comes  
6 to stopping the climate crisis. Either you do or  
7 you don't. And there is no middle ground in living  
8 out a lie. CCS is not real, and today we sit here  
9 arguing about giving Louisiana permission over an  
10 imaginary industry, only intended to force these  
11 greedy conglomerates in our lives indefinitely.

12           I ask the following of y'all: Stop the  
13 Louisiana primacy proceedings and start over, taking  
14 into account the role of the new House Bill 571. I  
15 didn't write the act number down -- and the need for  
16 the EPA to finalize its long-promised guidance  
17 regarding the Class II to Class VI transition  
18 regulations. Two, do not approve Louisiana's  
19 primacy application until you can tell us with  
20 scientific evidence that any of this even works.  
21 And three, do not approve Louisiana's primacy  
22 application without ensuring that Louisiana  
23 considers environmental justice and complies with  
24 Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 when  
25 deciding whether or not to allow a company to store

1 captured carbon dioxide in a Class II well, rather  
2 than a much more rigorously regulated Class VI well.

3 Thank you.

4 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

5 Anybody else?

6 **ROHAN DAVEY:** How you guys doing today? My  
7 name is Rohan Davey.

8 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Whenever you're ready,  
9 sir.

10 **ROHAN DAVEY:** Ask you a question. Why is  
11 Louisiana land, water, and the future so important  
12 to me? And my answer to that is, it's important to  
13 me because of the people I love. Right? The ones  
14 that I love and the friends that I've made here  
15 since I've been in Louisiana since 1997. My kids,  
16 who all reside here in Louisiana, are important to  
17 me. My fiancée and my soon-to-be mother-in-law, who  
18 all reside in St. James, Louisiana and have been  
19 long-time residents of St. James, Louisiana, they  
20 are very, very important to me. My future grandkids  
21 are very, very important to me.

22 Let me start by saying this: I am against  
23 CCS. And 100 percent against CCS here in Louisiana.  
24 I am pretty sure the residents of Mississippi would  
25 have liked to have not had that pipeline underneath



1 them in 2020. Had a major pipeline eruption in  
2 Mississippi. More specifically, in Satartia,  
3 Mississippi. CO2 was expanded with that rupture,  
4 everywhere, where clouds combining -- you couldn't -  
5 - cars were stalled and you couldn't even see.  
6 Clouds of CO2 in the air for miles. We are not in  
7 favor of that here in Louisiana. Would are not in  
8 favor of a pipeline erupting here. We're not in  
9 favor of being the guinea pigs here for something  
10 that is -- is definitely an experiment, of what's  
11 going on here.

12           You talk about lives. Right? Let's talk  
13 about the lives that these places are affected  
14 because of where these infrastructure are going to  
15 have to be built. We're doubling down on the  
16 residents that have already been dealing with this,  
17 now you're going to bring the infrastructure there  
18 that emits -- and now they're doubling down, you're  
19 going to put it on top and underneath them. All  
20 right?

21           So, because of the carbon capture,  
22 (indiscernible) near to emit these sites. Facilities  
23 would be further harmed. The same people already  
24 overburdened by these industrial -- industrial  
25 pollution in Louisiana that will be put -- and this

1 is being put in the places of our black, brown, and  
2 indigenous people. And they're at greater risk.  
3 And that's who we're harming.

4 Thank you.

5 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, sir.

6 Is there anybody else that wants to give a  
7 statement at this time?

8 **SPEAKER:** Hello. Hi, my name is Ricki  
9 Lemos (sp.). I'm a native resident of Lake Charles,  
10 Louisiana, and I say no to carbon waste injection in  
11 Louisiana. The department of -- the department of  
12 what natural -- or natural department of resource --  
13 and what's to do. This has -- have -- to have this  
14 process done in our state, ignoring all of the  
15 dangers that come with it. And caring about how  
16 harmful it will be to our communities. If something  
17 broke or got damaged or ruptured during the process  
18 of installing, or it says for whether -- during  
19 installing, it can be -- what can come from the  
20 aftermath over time. I'm not willing to take that  
21 risk. And neither should anyone else at that  
22 matter, because the results of that will be more  
23 devastating than benefit -- benefit. Over -- I'm  
24 sorry. The benefit. People could get sick, or  
25 worse, lose their lives over the project. People in

1 other states that's gone through this process are  
2 regretting that. They allow it to happen. And I  
3 don't want nothing bad that could happen harmful to  
4 me or my family, or anyone else's family. My mother  
5 suffers with frequent seizures and strokes, gets  
6 lacks of oxygen to her brain, and I have a child  
7 that suffers also with aut- -- asthma. So I can't  
8 afford to allow something to come into effect that  
9 can do more harmful than good in the event of  
10 something going wrong. And from what I'm seeing in  
11 other states, it's looking like a good possibility.  
12 So in order to prevent that from happening, we all  
13 just have to say no and vote no to carbon -- I'm  
14 sorry. To carbon waste injection in Louisiana,  
15 better known as carbon capture storage, CCS.

16 Thank you for your time and believing in  
17 other lives, and by saying no.

18 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

19 Anyone else at this time?

20 **MICHELLE JOHNSON:** Hi. My name is  
21 Michelle Johnson. I'm a medical doctor from  
22 Slidell, Louisiana.

23 I'm -- would prefer that we not do carbon  
24 capture, because it is expensive, it's, um -- would  
25 be more competitive, more efficient to switch over

1 to clean energy. And as far as allowing the  
2 Louisiana DNR to oversee it rather than the EPA, I  
3 believe that the State of Louisiana is just a little  
4 too enamored with the oil and gas industry to not be  
5 influenced by that.

6 That's it. Thank you.

7 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

8 Anyone else?

9 Okay. We're going to go off the record  
10 for a while until we get new speakers. Okay?

11 **(Off record at 7:24 p.m.)**

12 **(On record at 7:41 p.m.)**

13 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Let's go back on the  
14 record.

15 **SPEAKER:** I don't have a position on this.  
16 I would just like to thank Ian for working so hard.  
17 So, this is a little ode.

18 Oh Ian, an administer at the EPA, a beacon  
19 of kindness in every way. With a heart so warm and  
20 a spirit so bright, you illuminate the lives of  
21 those within sight. A best friend to many, your  
22 presence so dear, spreading joy and laughter, year  
23 after year. In your company, troubles seem to fade,  
24 for your compassion knows no barricade. Through  
25 weeks of labor, and toiled with care, assembling a

1 hearing with utmost flair. Your dedication and  
2 diligence beyond compare, creating a stage where  
3 truth takes the air.

4 Oh Ian, your intellect shines like a star,  
5 illuminating minds no matter how far. Your wisdom  
6 and knowledge, a priceless treasure, guiding others  
7 with grace at every measure. And I imagine you  
8 running with grace, swift as the wind in a joyous  
9 chase. Your determination, a force unmatched,  
10 inspiring with each stride dispatched. Friends and  
11 family forever hold you dear, their love for you,  
12 crystal clear. For in your presence, they find  
13 solace and peace, a testament to the bounds that  
14 will never cease.

15 So here's to Ian, a man we adore, whose  
16 kindness and brilliance we forever explore. May  
17 your journey be filled with endless delight, as you  
18 continue spreading love, shining bright.

19 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

20 **SPEAKER:** Thank you so much.

21 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

22 Off the record.

23 **(Off record at 7:43 p.m.)**

24 **(On record at 7:57 p.m.)**

25 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Let's go back on the

1 record.

2 Hi, folks. Are you guys here to make a  
3 statement? No? Okay. We finish -- this hearing  
4 ends at 8:00, okay?

5 **(Off record at 7:57 p.m.)**

6 **(On record at 7:59 p.m.)**

7 **MR. JOHNSON:** We're going to go back on  
8 the record.

9 This is the close of the face-to-face  
10 hearing, three days long. We thank everybody who  
11 attended. And there will be a comments response put  
12 together by EPA. We can't give you the exact timing  
13 of that because it involves having multidisciplinary  
14 team go through all the comments that were received,  
15 both in the hearing and online. The hearing comment  
16 -- the comment close date is actually July 3rd, so  
17 the comments will come into -- continue to come in  
18 for a while.

19 But with that, the hearing, the face-to-  
20 face portion, is officially closed. Thank you.

21 **SPEAKER:** I have a question? Do you know  
22 when the transcript is going to be available?

23 (Inaudible). Will it be available on the website?

24 (Inaudible).

25 **MR. JOHNSON:** Why don't you come closer,

1 so I can actually hear you.

2 **SPEAKER:**

3 Oh, sorry.

4 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Off the record.

5 **(End of hearing at 8:00 p.m.)**

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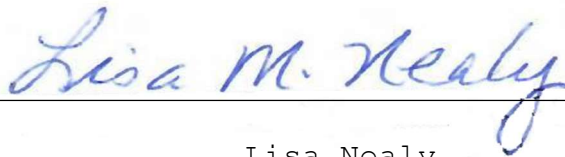
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CERTIFICATE

I, Lisa Nealy, do hereby certify that I reported all proceedings adduced in the foregoing matter and that the foregoing transcript pages constitutes a full, true and accurate record of said proceedings to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am neither related to counsel or any party to the proceedings nor have any interest in the outcome of the proceedings.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.



Lisa Nealy



\$	<b>11:07</b> 56:11	<b>2:39</b> 91:4	12:17 106:8
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