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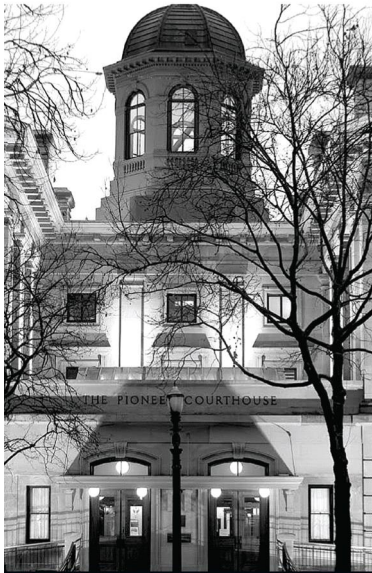
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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

PUBLIC HEARING

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

**HELD ON
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023
9:00 A.M.**

**LABELLE HEARING ROOM
617 NORTH THIRD STREET
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802**



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LOUISIANA UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

CLASS VI PRIMACY PROPOSED RULE

HELD ON

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023

9:00 A.M.

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

MR. JOHNSON: Good morning, and welcome to day two of EPA's Class VI primacy hearing for the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. My name is Ken Johnson, ground water injection control section supervisor at EPA Region 6 in Dallas, Texas. Before we begin taking testimony, I'll provide background information and a summary of the proposed action.

With me at the hearing today, as they were yesterday, from EPA Region 6, are Ian Ussery, who is sitting up here at front, and Brody Friesenhahn, who's at the door. Both are geologists in the UIC section. Lisa Pham, UIC engineer, who's at the registration table. Chad Larsen, environmental justice liaison in the Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal and International Affairs. He is

1 working the overflow room. And Evelyn Rosborough
2 from the NPDS section is also at the registration
3 table. And from the Office of Regional Counsel, our
4 hearing officer, Armando Armendariz, who you'll hear
5 from shortly.

6 Today's hearing concerns EPA's proposed
7 approval of a revision to Louisiana Safe Drinking
8 Water Act Section 1422 UIC program to include Class
9 VI injection well primary enforcement
10 responsibility, referred to as "primacy."

11 The proposed revision would allow
12 Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, or LDNR,
13 to issue UIC permits for geologic carbon
14 sequestration facilities as Class VI wells, and
15 ensure compliance of Class VI wells under the UIC
16 program. EPA proposes to issue a final rule
17 approving Louisiana's application to implement the
18 UIC program for Class VI injection wells located
19 within the state, except those on Indian lands.

20 The Class VI program was created under the
21 Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. This statute
22 protects public health by regulating the nation's
23 public drinking water supply, including both surface
24 and groundwater resources. The Safe Drinking Water
25 Act requires EPA to develop requirements and

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

11 A state applicant seeking primacy for a
12 Class VI program must demonstrate to the EPA that
13 the Class VI program is as stringent as the federal
14 requirements and is protective of underground
15 sources of drinking water, also referred to as
16 USDWs, among other requirements.

17 The Class VI program, which regulates
18 injection of carbon dioxide into deep rock
19 formations for the purpose of long-term underground
20 storage, provides multiple safeguards that work
21 together to protect USDWs and human health. Owners
22 or operators that wish to inject carbon dioxide for
23 the purpose of geologic sequestration must
24 demonstrate that their injection well will meet all
25 regulatory requirements, and receive a Class VI

1 permit for each well. The Class VI UIC program
2 requires applicants to meet strict technical,
3 financial, and managerial requirements to obtain a
4 Class VI permit. These program requirements
5 include the following components:

6 One. Site characterization. Site
7 characterization ensures the geology in the project
8 area will contain carbon dioxide within the zone
9 where it will be injected.

10 Two. Area of review. Area of review
11 modeling delineates the predicted area influenced by
12 injection activities through the life of operation.

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

17 Four. Well construction requirements.
18 These requirements ensure that the Class VI
19 injection well will not leak carbon dioxide.

20 Five. Testing and monitoring throughout
21 the life of the project, including after carbon
22 dioxide injection has ended. Requirements include,
23 as an example, testing to ensure physical integrity
24 of the well, monitoring for seismic activity near
25 the injection site, monitoring of the injection

1 pressure and flow, chemical analysis of the carbon
2 dioxide stream that is being injected, and
3 monitoring the extent of the injected carbon dioxide
4 plume and the surrounding area, such as groundwater,
5 to ensure that carbon dioxide is contained as
6 predicted.

7 Six. Operating requirements to ensure
8 that the injection activity will not endanger USDWs
9 or human health.

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

15 Eight. Emergency and remedial response
16 plans.

17 Nine. Reporting of all testing and
18 monitoring results to the permitting authority to
19 ensure that the well is operating in compliance with
20 all permit and regulatory requirements.

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

1 In addition to reviewing the state
2 regulations to ensure they are at least as stringent
3 as the Federal Rules I just summarized, EPA also
4 evaluated Louisiana's Class VI program description,
5 Louisiana Attorney General's statement of
6 enforcement authority, and the addendum to the
7 Memorandum of Agreement between EPA and Louisiana,
8 describing the administration, implementation and
9 enforcement of Louisiana's Class VI program.

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

1 Louisiana's program description specifies that LDNR
2 will require well owners or operators to conduct an
3 EJ review as part of the Class VI application
4 process, and the results of the review will be used
5 by LDNR to determine if an enhanced public comment
6 period will be required.

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

21 For additional information on the proposed
22 decision, you can review the proposed decision,
23 located in the Federal Register. To review
24 application materials and supporting documents, you
25 can go to the rule-making docket.

1 The rule-making docket is located at the
2 following web address:
3 www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OW-2023-0073/
4 document.

5 And now, the hearing officer, Armando
6 Armendariz, will explain the procedures for this
7 public hearing.

8 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Good morning, everyone.
9 Thank you for coming to this public hearing.

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

22 Before I touch on the hearing procedures,
23 in the event of an emergency, please exit the room
24 either through the door on my left, or through the
25 back -- the double doors in the back of the room.

1 Once you go through the double back doors, you will
2 be able to exit the building through the glass doors
3 on my left.

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

19 I understand that some of you are quite
20 passionate about today's issues. But in order to
21 fully understand and hear your comments, your
22 statement must be focused and clear. As previously
23 mentioned, EPA personnel will not be responding to
24 any questions during today's hearing. Instead, the
25 EPA will publish a written response to everyone's

1 comments in the Federal Register that will allow --
2 that will include the agency's final decision in
3 this matter.

4 I will be calling on people who have
5 registered to make comments. Based on the number of
6 people who have signed up, I am setting a three-
7 minute limit per speaker. This will ensure that
8 everyone will be given an opportunity to be heard.
9 People who have commented will not be allowed to
10 speak again, even if time permits, and can leave the
11 room if they want to leave the room. In addition,
12 registered speakers will not be allowed to share or
13 donate any of their time to anyone else. When I
14 call your name, please spell your name, and if you
15 are representing an organization, please identify
16 the organization.

17 Further, I must obtain a clear and
18 uninterrupted record of this hearing, so please do
19 not talk while others are speaking. The court
20 reporter may only hear and record one person at a
21 time. I will also ask that you please silence your
22 cell phones.

23 After the public hearing record closes,
24 EPA will continue to accept written comments. Please
25 note that the written comment period that began on

1 May 4th, 2023, ends on July 3rd, 2023. Written
2 comments should be submitted by the methods
3 described in the EPA's notice. In addition, written
4 comments will be considered with the same weight as
5 oral comments.

6 We have set up microphones where everyone
7 will speak to my right. Mr. Ian Ussery will let you
8 know when you have 30 seconds remaining by raising a
9 yellow card, and will raise a red card when your
10 time has ended. I will then ask the next person in
11 line to please come forward.

12 I will now take the comments of the people
13 who have signed up to speak, beginning with Mr.
14 Milton Walker.

15 **MILTON WALKER:** My name is Milton Walker,
16 M-I-L-T-O-N W-A-L-K-E-R, Jr. Start?

17 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Are you ready, sir?

18 **MILTON WALKER:** My name is Milton Walker,
19 a resident of the State of Louisiana since 1952. In
20 the 70-plus years of my life, I have lived and
21 worked in the State of Louisiana. I'm an outdoor
22 enthusiast, a hunter, fisherman, and wake up every
23 morning looking at the wonders of our state. My
24 family and friends live here. I have been affected
25 by many hurricanes that have left us weeks on end

1 without electricity. We have been flooded multiple
2 times by the same hurricanes, and I am a product of
3 East Jefferson High School, and spent several years
4 at LSU-NO. I have been associated with conservation
5 groups like the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, and a
6 local sportsmen's league for over 20 years. I'm a
7 business owner of a chauffeur transportation
8 company, Alert Transportation Limousine, and a tour
9 company, Louisiana Swamp Tours. These family
10 businesses have been in operation since 1999, and
11 over 35 employees rely on fossil fuels for business
12 operation.

13 I support the oil and gas industry for
14 many reasons. We use diesel and gasoline for our
15 business operation. No electrical power will ever
16 replace these energy resources. If oil and gas was
17 to cease to exist, our way of life would move back
18 to Stone Age. The green deal, that everyone wants
19 to move toward electricity, I'm -- is not possible.
20 No boat, no bus, no airplane, will ever operate on
21 electricity. I can assure you, because I won't get
22 on a plane that has electric solar panels.

23 If fossil fuels were banned tomorrow, our
24 business and way of life would cease to exist.
25 People would lose their jobs. Plastics would not be

1 manufactured. When the wind did not blow and there
2 was no sunshine, our way of life would be crippled.
3 I support oil and gas and the carbon capture
4 industry to continue our way of life, because I can
5 promise you, in 2035 when California goes no
6 combustion engines, people are going to be forced to
7 unplug their cars because they won't have enough
8 electricity to share.

9 I urge the people of Louisiana and of the
10 United States to support the production of oil and
11 gas. And if carbon capture industry is necessary,
12 then let's do it, because we're under tremendous
13 amount of, um -- tremendous amount of, um, pressure
14 to slow down the carbon emissions. I do not believe
15 that people are ready to start beating clothes on
16 rocks or hanging clothes inside their house on rainy
17 days. Want to continue way of life until the
18 natural resources are abundant in the state [sic].
19 Louisiana has fossil fuel resource for almost a
20 hundred years, and a large part of Louisiana
21 citizens have jobs in the fossil fuel industry. If
22 carbon capture is essential for continued use of
23 fossil fuels --

24 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay, Mr. Walker? I'm
25 sorry, we ran out of time, sir.

1 **MILTON WALKER:** Okay.

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

3 Rachel Crum? Rachel Crum. Cindy Faulk?
4 Cindy Faulk. Autumn Button? Autumn Button. Marion
5 Freistadt. Kanitra Lee. Pooja Prazid. Deborah
6 Randolph. Jack Sweeney.

7 **SPEAKER:** (Indicating.)

8 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Are you ready, Mr.
9 Sweeney?

10 **JACK SWEENEY:** Yes.

11 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Give me one second.
12 Okay, sir.

13 **JACK SWEENEY:** Hello. My name is Jack
14 Reno Sweeney. I'm here on behalf of Green Army.

15 I've been a resident of Louisiana all my
16 life, and I'm here to request that the EPA not grant
17 primacy over carbon capture to the state. I've seen
18 my state government fail time and time again to
19 protect the environment and the people who depend on
20 it, and I do not have faith in our capture state
21 regulatory agencies to properly protect the people
22 of Louisiana from the very real dangers of carbon
23 capture.

24 Carbon capture is an experimental
25 technology with a track record littered with

1 failure. It's a proven technology, just proven not
2 to work. Previous editions of the carbon capture
3 fad, like clean coal, all failed, with specific
4 examples like Petra Nova in Texas, and Kemper in
5 Mississippi. And when these facilities were
6 operational, they never came close to their
7 emissions reduction goals. We can expect those same
8 failures again, which would result in more new
9 emissions from the carbon capture projects proposed
10 for wholly new petrochemical facilities.

11 And more to the point, even if CCS did
12 work, we know our state is not capable of regulating
13 the industry effectively. Louisiana's landscape is
14 marred by thousands of abandoned wells that the
15 state is not able to address in a timely or safe
16 manner. Why do we think DNR suddenly has the
17 capacity to meaningfully regulate a type of
18 industrial activity wholly new to Louisiana, with
19 major risks in the event of poor maintenance or
20 accidents?

21 On the subject of accidents, the areas
22 targeted for major carbon capture projects often
23 rely on volunteer fire fighters, who do not feel
24 adequately equipped or trained to deal with the
25 disasters associated with CCS infrastructure, such as

1 the pipeline explosion and mass oxygen deprivation
2 event that occurred in Satartia, Mississippi, just a
3 few years ago.

4 Further, similar injection wells, waste
5 injection wells in the past, that injected fracking
6 waste underground in Louisiana rather than CO2, have
7 caused devastation here already, and best
8 exemplified by the disappearance of the community of
9 Bayou Corne.

10 Louisiana is not prepared to regulate
11 carbon capture permits, and our history shows our
12 state is not interested in regulating industrial
13 activity in the interests of personal environmental
14 safety, but only the petrochemical profits,
15 lucrative contracts, and back-room deals. The EPA
16 is already involved in a lawsuit with our DEQ over
17 irresponsible permitting practices. Why would the
18 EPA seriously consider, in light of all this,
19 charging our inadequate state agencies with yet
20 another responsibility to ignore?

21 My home has been treated like a dumping
22 ground for far too long. Please deny permitting
23 primacy to the state. Thank you.

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

25 Gavin Dillingham? Are you ready, sir?

1 **GAVIN DILLINGHAM:** Yeah. Gavin Dillingham
2 with SLB.

3 Good morning. Thank you for the
4 opportunity today on the Louisiana Class VI primacy
5 proposed rule.

6 SLB is a global technology company that
7 drives energy innovation for a balanced planet. As
8 an early technology leader in carbon capture
9 technology and utilization for (indiscernible) oil
10 recovery, SLB Carbon Solutions continues to research
11 and develop technologies and solutions to accelerate
12 carbon capture utilization and sequestration for
13 allowing decarbonization objectives. CCUS is a key
14 contributor to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and
15 help the United States reach its carbon neutrality
16 goals.

17 SLB is delighted to see the EPA supporting
18 more rapid permitting of CO2 storage projects by
19 proposing to grant Class VI primacy to Louisiana.
20 The necessity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,
21 coupled with the incentives provided by the
22 bipartisan infrastructure law and IRA, is causing
23 the EPA to face significant growth in demand for
24 permitting of Class VI wells. Currently there are
25 88 permits pending in the queue, out of which 30 are

1 in Louisiana. Allowing states such as North Dakota,
2 Wyoming, and now Louisiana, to directly participate
3 in Class VI permitting, can lessen the burden on the
4 EPA and increase the speed with which CO2 storage
5 wells are permitted. This can result in a
6 significant uptick in the number of storage
7 projects, and most importantly, a significant
8 reduction in emissions. The Net Zero America study
9 of 2021 finds that for the U.S. to reach its energy
10 transition goals, between 400 and 1800 million tons
11 of CO2 must be captured annually by 2050. This CO2
12 must be properly utilized or stored. It is expected
13 that the majority of captured CO2 will be stored
14 underground (indiscernible) aquifer.

15 There's no shortage of storage. The U.S.
16 has enough geologic storage capacity to store
17 billions of tons of CO2. The capacity is enough to
18 store all U.S. emissions for the next several
19 hundred years. Although this capacity has been
20 identified, proper reservoir characterization must
21 occur to assess the viability of this storage and to
22 develop it to the point of source to be a secure
23 storage site.

24 We appreciate the importance of proper
25 permitting of Class VI wells to keep our underground

1 aquifers and ecosystems safe. This permitting
2 process must consider the full life cycle of the
3 well, including site appraisal, construction,
4 operation, testing, monitoring, and closure.
5 Without properly assessing and verifying the ability
6 of an operator to maintain and operate the systems
7 within guidelines, our drinking water, public
8 health, and environment are at risk.

9 The current permitting process is seen as
10 a significant bottleneck slowing deployment of CO2
11 storage projects. The permitting of wells under the
12 underground -- under this program ranges from two to
13 six years. This time frame can present considerable
14 uncertainty in the development process and may
15 result in cancelled projects. The EPA has made
16 efforts to have the permitting process take no
17 longer than two years. We applaud this shorter and
18 more certain time frame. By granting Louisiana
19 Class VI primacy, with EPA oversight, this two-year
20 goal becomes realistic. We're encouraged to see the
21 LDNR and EPA agree to uphold a high level of
22 cooperation and coordination to assure successful
23 and efficient administration of the UIC program. The
24 EPA proposed rule to grant primacy demonstrates a
25 willingness by the EPA to work with US states and

1 industry to lesson regulatory burden while ensuring
2 a safe environment.

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

4 Desiree Lemoine?

5 **DESIREE LEMOINE:** Good morning.

6 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Good morning.

7 **DESIREE LEMOINE:** I'd like to start by
8 saying my statement is sourced. It's sourced from
9 the U.S. Department of Energy, it is sourced from
10 the International Energy Agency, as well as the 2023
11 Gulf Coast Energy Outlook put out by the LSU Center
12 for Energy Studies.

13 My name is Desiree Lemoine. I am the
14 campaign manager for Industry Makes. Industry Makes
15 is a 501(c)(4), established through collaboration
16 and a pressing need by industry to support a united
17 front on all things manufacturing. Industry Makes
18 believes that manufacturing is the backbone of
19 Louisiana's economy. We also support the science of
20 carbon capture utilization and sequestration, or
21 CCUS, and responsible industrial growth in
22 Louisiana.

23 Louisiana provides a fertile environment
24 for CCUS to be utilized. We have very good geology
25 for storage, and we also believe there is a

1 confluence of four factors that make CCUS attractive
2 in Louisiana: We have large industrial sites; we
3 have advantageous geology; we have global buyers of
4 products communicating to Louisiana companies that
5 they want lower emission-intensive products; and the
6 current tax credits for CCUS. We believe CCUS will
7 be -- nothing but grow in the coming years.

8 The science of CCUS has been regulated by
9 the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources for
10 decades, through advanced or enhanced oil recovery.
11 The development and deployment of this long-studied
12 science will go a long way to meet global energy
13 demands concurrently with the goals of carbon
14 dioxide reduction, a goal that Louisiana industry
15 supports.

16 According to the International Energy
17 Agency, globally, more than 30 million tons of
18 carbon dioxide is captured from large-scale
19 facilities every year. Over 70 percent of the
20 captured carbon dioxide occurs in North America,
21 with Louisiana playing an important role, with
22 several CCUS projects planned. With access to such
23 state-of-the-art carbon capture and sequestration
24 technologies, the United States has the potential to
25 capture over 27 million tons every year, roughly

1 equivalent to taking 5.4 million cars off the roads.

2 Industry Makes respectfully requests the
3 EPA to grant the Louisiana Department of Natural
4 Resources the authority to permit Class VI wells.
5 With this authority, Louisiana will navigate an
6 efficient energy transition across energy,
7 communities, and all aspects of government, federal,
8 state, and local.

9 We believe that Louisiana knows its
10 geology best; that primacy is good for business, by
11 enabling a streamlined, local permitting process;
12 that primacy creates an efficient path towards
13 reaching climate goals; and that primacy will
14 protect the livelihood --

15 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, ma'am.

16 **DESIREE LEMOINE:** -- of Louisiana
17 families.

18 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** We ran out of time. Thank
19 you.

20 **DESIREE LEMOINE:** Thank you.

21 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Lorraine Cheamie? Landry
22 Wunstell? Troy Wayman?

23 **TROY WAYMAN:** Good morning. Troy Wayman,
24 T-R-O-Y W-A-Y-M-A-N. I'm the president and CEO of
25 One Acadiana.

1 One Acadiana is the leading privately
2 funded economic development organization for the
3 nine-parish region of Acadiana. Representing more
4 than 700 businesses and individuals, we proudly
5 serve as the voice of the regional business
6 community. In our work to make Acadiana more
7 competitive for business and more vibrant for our
8 residents, we coordinate with the Louisiana Economic
9 Development, local economic development leaders, and
10 industry experts, to identify and act on job and
11 investment opportunities that will enhance the
12 economic well-being of our region.

13 Carbon capture and storage projects
14 represent one such opportunity. And I'm here to
15 urge the EPA to grant Louisiana's request for
16 primacy of Class VI injection wells. Louisiana has
17 long been a global leader in the energy sector, and
18 the Acadiana region is home to a robust network of
19 oil and gas service providers. Our state has the
20 workforce in place to support carbon capture and
21 storage, along with the geologic and engineering
22 expertise to ensure that we execute these projects
23 responsibly, in a way that respects and protects
24 Louisiana's natural environment.

25 Louisiana's Department of Natural

1 Resources has long demonstrated the capability to
2 administer EPA programs, including the underground
3 injection control section where DNR currently
4 retains primacy over every class of injection well,
5 one through five, except Class VI. In fact, DNR has
6 been overseeing enhanced oil recovery operations
7 through their existing authorities for decades.
8 Carbon injection is one method used during that
9 process. DNR's wealth of skill and expertise in
10 administration, permitting, inspection, and
11 enforcement of injection wells, means that carbon
12 capture and storage projects will be in capable
13 hands if the state is granted primacy of Class VI
14 injection wells.

15 Louisiana is ready for this
16 responsibility. We appreciate the years of ongoing
17 efforts of our state legislature, as well as our
18 governor and DNR, to position our state at the
19 forefront of the carbon capture and storage sector.
20 Louisiana is well positioned to utilize our
21 resources and expertise to maintain our place as a
22 global leader on energy solutions throughout the
23 ongoing energy evolution.

24 Thank you for hosting this hearing and
25 allowing us the opportunity to express our support

1 for Louisiana's application for Class VI primacy.

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

3 Jessi Parfait? Morning.

4 **JESSI PARFAIT:** Good morning.

5 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Are you ready?

6 **JESSI PARFAIT:** J-E-S-S-I P-A-R-F-A-I-T.

7 Good morning. My name is Jessi Parfait. I
8 am a member of the United Houma Nation. My tribe
9 has been here since time immemorial. I'm also an
10 employee of the Sierra Club.

11 I want to say primacy should be denied to
12 LDNR. LDNR is a department that is not able to
13 fulfill its existing duties to the Louisiana
14 Constitution, particularly coastal management. LDNR
15 failed to protect a small tribal community near my
16 hometown, named Grand Bois, resulting in severe
17 health injuries in children and adults, in open pit
18 dumping sites that remain to this day. Their failure
19 to monitor and regulate also resulted in the ground
20 giving way under Bayou Corne community in 2012.

21 EPA must assist LDNR with management of
22 our wetlands under its Clean Water Act 404 duties.
23 These are the nation's wetlands, which are a vital
24 part of Louisiana's net zero strategy. The decision
25 of primacy is a federal action that requires a hard

1 look at cumulative impacts, including cumulative
2 effects to wetlands. Currently, over 20 Class VI
3 proposals, many of which have not been presented to
4 the EPA, imply that over 4,000 acres of wetlands
5 will be excavated. Each injection project is
6 significant on its own, and requires an
7 environmental impact statement. Together, they
8 require an area-wide EIS, as was done for Florida's
9 phosphate mines. Primacy cannot be granted without
10 this EIS to coordinate with the US ACE, DOE, and
11 other federal actions that primacy will participate.
12 We demand this area-wide EIS and request an
13 extension of the comment period for 60 days to bring
14 EPA more information about the lack of enforcement
15 of the CZMA.

16 For decades, until 1990, Louisiana's coast
17 was dredged for oil and gas canals and pipelines.
18 USGS has measured the scale of these losses to the
19 nation's wetlands at over 400 square miles of land.
20 These oil companies owe us the land under the
21 Coastal Management Act, but LDNR says it does not
22 have the staff capacity to enforce this act. The
23 governor's office has taken these responsibilities
24 for this governor, and Freeport McMoRan has settled
25 their CZMA liabilities for \$100 million. But most

1 of the oil companies have not complied with the law.
2 At least four companies seeking Class VI injection -
3 - Exxon, Conoco, Denbury, and Oxy -- have over 1,000
4 coastal use permits issued by LDNR with outstanding
5 compliance issues, representing tens of thousands of
6 acres of wetlands lost. The department must bring
7 these companies into compliance with the Coastal
8 Zone Management Act before the EPA can grant
9 primacy.

10 Further, this is not the safe solution it
11 is being presented as. In Yazoo County,
12 Mississippi, after a heavy rainstorm, a pipeline
13 ruptured in a heavy rainstorm leading to a CO2
14 release that stalled out cars due to clouds of
15 carbon dioxide that displaced oxygen. Dozens of
16 community members were hospitalized, and said they
17 believe the only reason they are alive is because it
18 didn't happen in the dead of night. People were
19 awake and noticed. Had they been asleep, they
20 likely would have suffocated in their sleep. Worse
21 yet, oil and gas companies have lobbied to shift
22 liabilities for damages to Louisiana taxpayers.

23 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

24 Rose Kamerer?

25 **ROSE KAMERER:** Good morning. I'm Rose

1 Kameron, K-A-M-E-R-E-R. And I'm here to speak just
2 as a mom and a grandma.

3 I've been a resident of Louisiana for 54
4 years. I'm beholden-- well, I'm not beholden. I,
5 um -- back in the seventies, the oil and gas
6 industry provided me a scholarship to LSU, Louisiana
7 State University. And I feel like we really need
8 the revenue from this industry. My oldest son also
9 graduated from LSU in the TOPS scholarship. I want
10 my grandsons to be able to stay in Louisiana and
11 have good-paying jobs. I have two other children
12 who are working in Louisiana, and of course I would
13 like to see them have the opportunity to stay also.

14 I like camping, and the Louisiana outdoors
15 has -- we have many beautiful state parks that are
16 served through the revenues of many different
17 industries here in the state.

18 Without the, um -- with the carbon capture
19 position that I'm taking -- which is very much pro.
20 I'd like to see this happen, because I feel like DEQ
21 is more than qualified to oversee this project. I
22 believe that our state -- yeah.

23 For these reasons, I urge you to approve
24 our state's application for Class VI primacy. Thank
25 you.

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

2 Lindsay Cooper?

3 **LINDSAY COOPER:** Good morning.

4 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Good morning.

5 **LINDSAY COOPER:** Lindsay Cooper, L-I-N-D-
6 S-A-Y C-O-O-P-E-R. I am the senior Gulf Coast
7 regional policy manager at the Clean Air Task Force,
8 CATF. And on behalf of CATF, we thank the US EPA
9 for the opportunity to comment on Louisiana's Class
10 VI application.

11 CATF is a nonprofit organization working
12 globally to safeguard against the worst impacts of
13 climate change by catalyzing the rapid development
14 and deployment of low carbon energy and other
15 climate-protecting technologies, while protecting
16 public health and the environment.

17 CATF priorities range from reducing
18 harmful pollution, to developing techniques that
19 rapidly remove carbon dioxide and other pollutants
20 from the atmosphere. Carbon capture and storage,
21 CCS, technologies are among essential tools for
22 decarbonizing the economy, particularly of the
23 industrial sector. Developed and deployed
24 successfully, CATF can reduce harmful pollution
25 rapidly and provide investment in local communities.

1 Successful development of CCS, in CATF's view,
2 translates to requirements ensuring that all aspects
3 of the system are well designed, and that siting and
4 deployment, effective monitoring, and long-term
5 financial support for liability, are thoughtfully
6 planned for and implemented, recognizing that
7 neighboring communities may already also be burdened
8 by industrial uses.

9 Whether the permitting of Class VI wells
10 is under the jurisdiction of EPA or Louisiana, the
11 responsible agency must have the resources necessary
12 to evaluate Class VI wells effectively, to rapidly
13 reduce pollution, and in a manner that protects
14 communities and the environment, and to provide
15 transparency needed for public confidence in the
16 process. CATF sees early and frequent involvement
17 of local communities and stakeholders as the key to
18 successful deployment of CCS projects. We plan to
19 continue engaging with state officials and
20 stakeholders on CCS permitting and policy in
21 Louisiana.

22 Drawing from our legal and scientific
23 expertise, CATF is conducting a technical analysis
24 of Louisiana's Class VI application under the Safe
25 Drinking Water Act underground injection control

1 program. We're also examining the surrounding legal
2 and regulatory authorities of the Louisiana
3 Department of Natural Resources to assess whether
4 Louisiana will be able to successfully implement the
5 regulations that it has developed. CATF will submit
6 written comments that fairly characterize
7 Louisiana's Class VI application, commend good
8 provisions, articulate areas of uncertainty or
9 shortcoming, and recommend safeguards necessary to
10 successfully deploy CCS in Louisiana.

11 Thank you.

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

13 Daniel Young? Dave Luecke?

14 **DAVE LUECKE:** Good morning.

15 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Good morning.

16 **DAVE LUECKE:** I'm Dave Luecke, L-U-E-C-K-
17 E.

18 I'm a Louisiana citizen. In fact, I
19 started working here in Baton Rouge after I
20 graduated from college with a bachelor's in chemical
21 engineering. As an ExxonMobil employee I've moved
22 around a fair amount, but this is my third time
23 living in Baton Rouge. My wife and I raised two
24 children here in Baton Rouge, and both graduated
25 from LSU.

1 As the ExxonMobil Baton Rouge refinery and
2 chemical plant manager, I urge you to grant Class VI
3 primacy to Louisiana. Primacy will support further
4 economic growth, and billions in future clean energy
5 investments across the state. Across our entire
6 company, we are committed to reducing our own
7 emissions while also commercializing low carbon
8 opportunities for broad deployment around the world,
9 including carbon capture and storage, hydrogen, and
10 low-emission fuels. We see these technologies as
11 key to reducing emissions in the highest-emitting
12 sectors in Louisiana, such as commercial
13 transportation, power generation, and heavy
14 industry.

15 For carbon capture and storage, the
16 International Energy Agency Net Zero by 2050 report
17 concluded that more than 7.6 billion metric tons of
18 carbon will need to be captured and stored by 2050.
19 In other words, CCS is an important part of the
20 pathway to net zero carbon emissions. By granting
21 Louisiana Class VI primacy, you can relieve the
22 regulatory burden from EPA and enable a local
23 permitting process to create a safe and more
24 efficient path to achieve ExxonMobil's and
25 Louisiana's net zero goals by 2050.

1 No one knows more about Louisiana geology
2 than Louisianians. For more than a century, our
3 company has provided jobs for generations of
4 Louisiana residents. Our employees keep our
5 operations running safely while giving back to the
6 communities where we live and work. We pledge that
7 same commitment across the state at our carbon
8 capture and sequestration facilities.

9 Thank you.

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

11 Chris DellaFranco?

12 **CHRIS DELLAFRANCO:** Good morning. Chris
13 DellaFranco, D-E-L-L-A-F-R-A-N-C-O.

14 So, my name's Chris DellaFranco. I am the
15 -- I'm a local resident here in Baton Rouge. I am
16 also the operations manager at our ExxonMobil
17 refinery here. And I'm here today asking for
18 support for primacy for Louisiana. Unlike a lot of
19 folks you've heard from here, I actually didn't grow
20 up in Louisiana, but I've lived here almost as long
21 as I've lived in my hometown. I moved here for work
22 after I graduated from college. And for me, I call
23 Louisiana home. My daughter was born here in
24 Louisiana; I'm currently raising my family here.
25 This state, what I've come to see, has a great

1 culture. People are extremely resilient, caring,
2 and determined to make the state better for its
3 future.

4 I have over 20 years of experience with
5 ExxonMobil, mainly in our manufacturing facilities
6 across a variety of sites and technologies. And --
7 and what I've come to see, and testify, is that our
8 employees have really the highest expertise and
9 experience in ensuring we can run our facility safe
10 and reliable. Every day across the area, our team
11 manages complex integrated operations across
12 chemical, refining, production, and pipeline
13 facilities here in Louisiana. We have a great
14 workforce and we're committed to ensure safe and
15 reliable operations of our facility, and we have a
16 proven track record along that.

17 You know, our experience across the value
18 chain in our industry I think positions us to be
19 very successful in carbon capture and sequestration
20 projects. Our Baton Rouge team collaborates closely
21 with low-carbon solutions business, leveraging its
22 unique combination and capabilities, such as
23 geophysics, well and pipeline expertise, complex
24 project management, and we look forward to
25 supporting more carbon capture storage innovation

1 right here in Louisiana.

2 In closing, I ask that you grant Class VI
3 primacy to Louisiana. By opening the door for more
4 carbon capture and sequestration investment in
5 Louisiana, we can ensure that ExxonMobil and
6 industry provides economic growth for Louisiana,
7 quality careers for our children, but most
8 importantly, a safe and reliable energy solution for
9 the future.

10 Thank you for your time this morning.

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

12 Marion Freistadt?

13 **MARION FREISTADT:** Good morning. My name
14 is Marion Freistadt, M-A-R-I-O-N F-R-E-I-S-T-A-D-T,
15 although I like to be called Penny. I'm speaking as
16 a private citizen.

17 To the EPA and LDNR, thank you for your
18 work. Thank you for the opportunity to comment
19 today. I am speaking in opposition to the primacy
20 application. I understand that the application is
21 largely approved. Therefore, today, I am speaking
22 to urge harm reduction. I have five points.

23 I request -- number one, I ask that if
24 primacy is granted, LDNR be required to require
25 environmental impact statements for all Class VI

1 projects. This is consistent with NEPA, because
2 even though the projects would be state-
3 administered, federal funds are involved. The IRA
4 had not been passed during the first primacy
5 hearing.

6 Number two. Even though LDNR submitted a
7 successful application on paper, I question their
8 real-world competency to fulfill EPA requirements.
9 For example, Wyoming DEQ has more than twice as many
10 employees and about eight times the budget as LDNR,
11 with one tenth the population of Louisiana. I
12 understand that is not the immediate purview of this
13 application; however, accountability should be
14 explicitly addressed.

15 Number three. In Louisiana, industry
16 sources of carbon dioxide is clustered in two areas,
17 Cancer Alley and Lake Charles. My concern is that
18 the extremely close physical juxtapositions of
19 industrial plants may negatively impact environment
20 and residents. Approval of the primacy application
21 should include guidelines on proximity of plants and
22 wells to each other and to the residents.

23 Fourth. Environmental justice. Air
24 Products plans to build a blue hydrogen plant near
25 Burnside, Louisiana, with resulting carbon dioxide

1 using carbon capture. According to the EPA EJ tool,
2 Burnside is already in the 70th to 90th percentile,
3 PM 2.5 diesel particulate matter, air toxics risk,
4 air toxics hazard index, hazardous waste proximity,
5 and wastewater discharge. The demographics are that
6 it's 50 to 60th percentile, people of color, low
7 income, low edu- -- less than high school education,
8 and low life expectancy.

9 My fifth point is the moral hazard. EPA
10 has a contradictory mission. EPA needs to regulate
11 greenhouse gas emissions. However, the Class VI
12 wells represent a clear path towards continuing
13 fossil fuel use. I realize the application for
14 primacy does not directly address moral issues, nor
15 greenhouse gas emissions. Nevertheless, if CCS is
16 to be considered a short-term solution in the
17 climate crisis, a time limit should be placed on
18 licensing wells. In fact, in a 2020 EPA press
19 release, governor of Wyoming explicitly stated that
20 the purpose of the Class VI wells in their primacy
21 application was to save their coal industry.

22 Thank you.

23 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

24 Gregory Manning. Gary Alexander. Gene
25 Baker. Shamell Lavigne. Shamyra Lavigne. Beverly

1 Games. Mike Johnson. Patrick Gillespie. Joe
2 Colletti.

3 Come forward, sir.

4 **JOE COLLETTI:** Good morning. My name's
5 Joe Colletti, J-O-E C-O-L-L-E-T-T-I.

6 I'm the Louisiana asset manager for
7 ExxonMobil Low Carbon Solutions, and a native of
8 Jeanerette, Louisiana. It's an honor to provide
9 testimony in support of the State of Louisiana's
10 application for Class VI UIC primacy. On behalf of
11 ExxonMobil, I respectfully submit the following:

12 ExxonMobil is a world-class operator with
13 more than 100 years of experience right here in
14 Louisiana. We have a proud history of working with
15 local communities to create products to help advance
16 our society. Through our low carbon solutions
17 business, we plan to expand that offering to include
18 large-scale carbon capture, sequestration, biofuels,
19 hydrogen, and other low carbon intensity products.

20 Louisiana is home to an expansive
21 industrial manufacturing sector that's critical to
22 the economy of our country and our state. We have
23 extensive infrastructure, including pipelines for
24 carbon dioxide transportation, which is the safest
25 way to move carbon dioxide to a geologic

1 sequestration facility. Louisiana's expertise and
2 highly skilled workforce will enable the state to
3 become a global leader in the energy transition and
4 carbon capture and sequestration. CCS is a proven
5 solution that can be implemented immediately at
6 scale to reduce existing emissions. CCS is not a
7 new technology. It's been used safely and
8 effectively around the globe for many decades, and
9 since the 1970s by ExxonMobil. The United Nations
10 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the
11 International Energy Agency agree that CCS is one of
12 the most important existing technologies required to
13 achieve society's climate goals at the lowest cost.

14 Additionally, CCS is a practical and
15 necessary step to advance Governor Edwards' and the
16 Biden Administration's net zero goals, while
17 preserving and growing thousands of Louisiana jobs
18 that rely directly and indirectly on the industrial
19 manufacturing sector.

20 Louisiana's subsurface geology makes it an
21 ideal place for safe underground carbon dioxide
22 storage, and the Louisiana Department of Natural
23 Resources knows the state's geology best. For
24 years, the LDNR has been preparing its programs and
25 personnel to administer rigorous oversight to ensure

1 the safety of our environment and our communities.

2 Louisiana is a leader in manufacturing
3 products that make modern life possible, and will
4 become a global model for implementing and advancing
5 emissions solutions for our future. Louisiana's
6 Class VI primacy application has been determined to
7 meet EPA's requirements, and I encourage approval of
8 their primacy application.

9 Thank you for the opportunity.

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

11 So we have finished with all of the
12 registered speakers that we had this morning. Let's
13 take a five-minute break and then we'll go over the
14 list again, and then after that, we'll go over
15 anybody else who wishes to speak at this time. Okay?
16 So let's come back -- let's come back at 10:00.

17 **(Off record at 9:52 a.m.)**

18 **(On record at 10:02 a.m.)**

19 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. This session is
20 back on record. We're going to go, very quickly go
21 back to the list for the people that we called
22 earlier and -- with the hopes that maybe they're
23 here now.

24 Rachel Crum. Cindy Faulk. Autumn Button.
25 Kanitra Lee. Pooja Prazid. Deborah Randolph.

1 Lorraine Cheamie. Landry Wunstell. Julie Menard.
2 Julie Menard. Daniel Young. Gregory Manning. Gary
3 Alexander. Gene Baker. Shamell Lavigne. Shamell
4 Lavigne. Shamyra Lavigne.

5 **SHAMYRA LAVIGNE:** I'm here.

6 Good morning.

7 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Good morning.

8 **SHAMYRA LAVIGNE:** My name Shamyra Lavigne.

9 Would you like to know our organization or anything?
10 Any other information?

11 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Just, can you spell your
12 last name for the record, please.

13 **SHAMYRA LAVIGNE:** My last name is L-A-V-I-
14 G-N-E.

15 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. You may begin,
16 please.

17 **SHAMYRA LAVIGNE:** Okay. So, I am from St.
18 James, Louisiana, also known as Cancer Alley. And we
19 are bombarded with 150 industries in an 85-mile
20 stretch of road. And growing up in St. James, I
21 loved being outside, being outdoors. Walking on the
22 levee. Visiting the Mississippi River. And I want
23 to keep our land sacred. I want to keep the land
24 that we love so much. And I think that carbon
25 capture storage would franchise our land. I think

1 that it is an experiment. And I think that our
2 lives should be taken more seriously than to
3 experiment by putting carbon underneath the ground.
4 There are so many risks that can happen, and I'm
5 terrified of those risks. If the state has control
6 over allowing carbon capture in our community or any
7 surrounding areas, I will be terrified at the
8 decision-making that they will make. I fear that
9 there can be an explosion, there can be a leak that
10 we won't know about. All the animals and pets that
11 we have will be in jeopardy if there's a leak,
12 because you often can't smell it or see it.

13 With us being bombarded by petrochemical
14 industries, we have faced a legacy of pollution, in
15 the -- air pollution, PM 2.5, ethylene oxide,
16 benzene, formaldehyde, and I don't think we need
17 another chemical, not only in the air, but
18 underneath us as well. I feel that we will be
19 trapped. And I'm terrified of this happening. I'm
20 terrified for our children. I'm terrified for our
21 descendants, and anyone coming from the future
22 that's going to experience this. It's very risky.
23 And I would ask that the power for it not be put
24 into the state's hands. I think that we need
25 transparency in this process, and the state has not

1 always shown us transparency. I think that we know
2 our land better than anyone else, and by knowing
3 this land, I say that it's too fragile to try this
4 experiment with our lives.

5 If you could take one thing from me today,
6 I would ask that you take a woman coming from the
7 country, coming from St. James, who loves this land,
8 and Louisiana will always be my home, and I believe
9 that carbon capture storage is not the best option
10 for us.

11 Thank you.

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

13 Beverly Games. State Representative Mike
14 Johnson.

15 **REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON:** Good
16 morning. Thank you for taking this in an efficient
17 way, and I appreciate your efforts in that respect.

18 I am Mike Johnson. I'm state
19 representative from District 27, which is in central
20 Louisiana. I'm also a past president of the Central
21 Louisiana Chamber of Commerce, the current president
22 of the North Rapides Business and Industry Alliance,
23 and I support Louisiana's primacy for regulation of
24 Class VI injection wells because carbon capture and
25 storage will yield major benefits for our state, and

1 especially for central Louisiana.

2 This past session I was proud to support
3 and co-sponsor a resolution expressing the
4 legislature's support for the state primacy of
5 carbon capture regulation, with an overwhelming
6 majority of the legislature agreeing with me. Carbon
7 capture will create much-needed, good-paying jobs
8 for our young professionals, particularly those
9 coming out of engineering programs, and will make
10 our industry better stewards of our environment. In
11 particular, the Diamond Vault project, which is
12 being pursued in my region by Cleco, will enable
13 Cleco's Madison 3 Unit, which, incidentally, is one
14 of the state's largest emitters of CO₂, to
15 immediately sequester 95 percent of its CO₂, all
16 without an increase in rates to Cleco's nearly
17 300,000 customers, spread out over 24 parishes.

18 Louisiana -- in Louisiana, we well know
19 how to deliver energy and electricity affordably and
20 reliably, and carbon capture will enable our
21 providers to continue doing just that for many years
22 to come. Louisiana, in this particular case, has
23 crafted a program of carbon storage that is more
24 robust than that regulated by the EPA. And to name
25 a few, Louisiana requires more technical review,

1 longer monitoring requirements, more pressure
2 testing.

3 Having said all of that, look, I'm a
4 father, I'm a grandfather. I'm a representative of
5 the people of central Louisiana. And I care greatly
6 about the safety and environment of industrial
7 operations. I'm also very much concerned about the
8 economic future of our state. And I have no
9 hesitation to say that I believe that the Louisiana
10 primacy of carbon capture will enable us to make
11 significant progress in all of those goals. And
12 therefore, I am very much in support of same.

13 Appreciate your listening to us today.
14 Appreciate your taking all of these comments into
15 consideration. And I can't believe that I didn't
16 overspeak my time limit. I'll probably get demerits
17 in the legislature for that.

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

19 **REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON:** Thank you
20 very much.

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

22 Patrick Gillespie.

23 Okay. That -- actually, we've run a
24 second term for the speakers that were registered to
25 speak this morning. Is there anybody in the

1 audience who wishes to speak?

2 Okay. So why don't we go with you first,
3 ma'am.

4 **ARLENE CULPEPPER:** Good morning. My name
5 is Arlene Culpepper. That's A-R-L-E-N-E C-U-L-P-E-
6 P-P-E-R.

7 I'm a lifelong resident of the beautiful
8 and diverse state known as Louisiana, and I support
9 primacy. I work in conservation and media, so I'm
10 able to see the good and bad parts of a lot of
11 things that go on here in Louisiana. And I work a
12 great deal with inner-city youth and rural youth,
13 using conservation outreach as a vehicle to assist
14 them in utilizing their intelligence and talent, and
15 in realizing their true potential.

16 As you know, kids are like sponges,
17 especially at the younger age, and demonstrating to
18 them growth and nurturing makes all the difference
19 in the world in terms of helping them see their work
20 come to life. Small gestures, such as planting and
21 growing trees, plants and flowers, demonstrates the
22 importance of conservation techniques. But it also
23 shows them that when living things are nurtured,
24 they can grow to be beautiful and purposeful. And I
25 love to watch the process.

1 Louisiana is known for wildlife, amazing
2 food, and the most unique gumbo of cultures in the
3 entire world. We're home to some of the most
4 resilient and hard-working people that can be found
5 anywhere. I chose to stay here when I got out of
6 college, because of everything I just described.

7 Our oil and gas industry is an integral
8 part of our culture, but it's also an integral part
9 of our economic development. And whether it's a
10 toolpusher or roughneck feeding his family, or any
11 other worker within the industry, they depend upon
12 it for their very existence. And I have friends and
13 family who have worked within the industry for
14 decades. I fully recognize the importance of
15 continuing the industry here. We cannot afford to
16 lose any revenue, much less the billions of dollars
17 injected to our economy from the oil and gas
18 exploration and production. A large amount of our
19 tax base is derived from the industry. Our
20 educational system is already struggling, which in
21 turn contributes to many of the social ills we are
22 currently seeing, especially here in Baton Rouge and
23 New Orleans. Our children are truly our future, and
24 to think that they may suffer due to further cuts in
25 the industry, it's -- it's not going to be good.

1 It's going to be a travesty. We need every dollar
2 we can to -- get, to provide for our future,
3 especially for children coming from marginalized
4 communities. The playing field for much of our
5 youth is already not even, and I shudder at the
6 thought of how many more may fall to the wayside if
7 our economy falters. Allowing Louisiana's oil and
8 gas industry to continue its legacy of provision and
9 exploration is a good thing. I support primacy in
10 Louisiana because I know this will allow for
11 Louisiana to compete on a global scale continually,
12 thereby giving our residents a hand up. And I urge
13 you to approve Louisiana's application for primacy.

14 Thank you.

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

16 Sir, I think you had your hand up?

17 **ADAM DAVIS:** Good morning. My name is
18 Adam Davis. I am speaking on behalf of Providence.

19 Providence is a Louisiana-based
20 engineering and environmental consulting firm, and
21 has been an active member of the state's business
22 community for over 23 years. Providence provides
23 environmental compliance and regulatory assistance
24 for businesses in a wide variety of industries and
25 markets, and would like to express our support of

1 Louisiana's primacy application for Class VI
2 injection wells.

3 We believe that the Department of Natural
4 Resources and the state should be the ones to
5 determine what is best for the communities they live
6 in and serve. We support the state's expertise and
7 knowledge of the best practices and local conditions
8 that are necessary to investigate, approve, and
9 monitor these activities. The State of Louisiana
10 has a long history of success using gas injection
11 technology, and with the help of local engineers,
12 scientists, and practitioners, we are the ones who
13 know best how to perform these projects safely and
14 effectively, and with the best interests of the
15 communities in which we live.

16 Providence encourages the State of
17 Louisiana to fully embrace emerging and innovative
18 technologies related to environmental stewardship
19 and sustainability. This opportunity has the
20 potential to position Louisiana as an innovative
21 environmental leader within the United States, and
22 can allow our state to be a pioneer, able to shape
23 and responsibly regulate an emerging industry. And
24 while no single technology is the answer to all the
25 environmental risks and concerns, we all should

1 support the state in its efforts to be an integral
2 part of a much larger, ever-changing climate and
3 environmental puzzle.

4 Providence feels these projects, under the
5 state jurisdiction, will be focused on enhancing and
6 protecting the ecosystems and communities around
7 them, and in doing so, encourage developers and
8 local community leaders to work together to ensure
9 the people, culture, and beauty of Louisiana is
10 protected, enhanced, and here to stay.

11 Thank you.

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

13 **SPEAKER:** Good morning.

14 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Good morning.

15 **CHARLES DABADIE:** Charles Dabadie,
16 representing ExxonMobil. Thank y'all for giving us
17 the opportunity to be here today.

18 I am a lifelong resident of East Baton
19 Rouge Parish. My family has been in Louisiana over
20 a hundred years. Worked in industry over 30 years
21 myself, and my family, over 75. So we're very
22 ingrained in the Louisiana oil and gas industry.

23 I'm an LSU graduate. I am on the boards
24 of, um -- Engineering Advisory Board, University
25 College of LSU. I'm America's regional

1 manufacturing manager for Exxon, so, uh -- we deal
2 in products that make everyday life better. And
3 that's what we at ExxonMobil is intending to do.

4 So I urge you to approve this Class VI
5 primacy for Louisiana. ExxonMobil supports
6 society's ambition to achieve net zero emissions by
7 2050, and plans to be playing a leading role in
8 that, using innovation and our great technologies.
9 We also support Governor Edwards' climate action
10 plan to achieve net zero by 2050.

11 Our state agencies, university, oil and
12 gas industry, includes some of the most experienced
13 and experts you have in this country. Granting
14 primacy Class VI wells to Louisiana will enable us
15 to tailor the implementation of CCS technologies to
16 our specific geological conditions, to support by
17 highly knowledgeable network of industry and
18 universities. Academic experts and resources at the
19 LSU Center for Energy Studies, the LSU Institute for
20 Energy Innovation, and the University of Louisiana
21 at Lafayette, are all growing their student
22 curriculum to support this effort. Our universities
23 are positioned to foster collaboration between the
24 public and private sector, which is instrumental to
25 ensure that our state is a leader in CCS.

1 We want to lead in this initiative. Also
2 in hydrogen and other emission reduction
3 technologies. It is through this local
4 collaboration we ensure the highest standards of
5 safety, environmental stewardship, and efficiency
6 for Louisiana.

7 Thank you for your time and consideration.

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

9 Pastor Gregory Manning? Gregory Manning?

10 Okay. Anybody else wishing to -- okay.

11 **EMMA HOPKINS:** Hi. My name is Emma
12 Hopkins. That's E-M-M-A H-O-P-K-I-N-S.

13 Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you
14 for having me. My name is Emma Hopkins, and I am a
15 campaign representative for the Sierra Club. I'm
16 here today to oppose the approval of Louisiana's
17 application for primacy in the permitting of Class
18 VI injection wells.

19 Everyone in this room is here today
20 because we care about something. We care about our
21 state, our jobs, our natural environment, our
22 neighbors, our future. I am here today because I
23 care, and because I want to speak from the heart,
24 but also because I want to bring facts to the table
25 and set the record straight.

1 CCS is not a step in the direction of a
2 clean energy economy. It is an unproven technology,
3 a false solution, and a foolish investment. Carbon
4 capture does nothing to address the CO2 released
5 into the atmosphere before the point source of
6 pollution from extraction and transport of fossil
7 fuels. It is energy-intensive, meaning that it
8 needs to be offset by burning more fossil fuels. It
9 endangers Louisiana's water, using exorbitant
10 amounts to run the facility. It also introduces the
11 likelihood of CO2 leaks, both endangering the health
12 of Louisiana residents, and defeating the whole
13 purpose of carbon capture in the first place.

14 Louisiana will not lose any jobs or
15 dollars if we do not expand CCS infrastructure. In
16 fact, if we continue to invest in and prop up the
17 fossil fuel industry, we risk digging ourselves into
18 a hole we can't escape from. What is the annual
19 cost of damages to private property every year due
20 to extreme weather events and other consequences of
21 climate change? Hurricanes. Extreme heat.
22 Tornadoes. Sea level rise. The list is endless;
23 the costs, incalculable. Let us not wave the flag
24 of economic growth without considering the full
25 range of external costs. Louisiana cannot afford a

1 future dictated by fossil fuels.

2 The Louisiana Department of Natural
3 Resources is understaffed, underfunded, and has a
4 record of failure to protect the health and well-
5 being of Louisianians. In the mid-nineties, DNR's
6 failure to protect the Grand Bois community from oil
7 waste led to several health -- severe health
8 injuries, including those suffered by children.
9 DNR's failure to monitor and regulate also resulted
10 in the catastrophe of the ground giving way under
11 the Bayou Corne community in 2012.

12 DNR is not ready for the responsibility of
13 primacy, and has proven itself unable to protect the
14 people of this state. I urge you not to approve
15 Louisiana's application for Class VI permitting
16 authority of injection wells.

17 Thank you for your time today.

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

19 Anybody else wishing to speak?

20 Go ahead, sir.

21 **REVEREND JAMES VANDERWEELE:** Good morning.
22 I'm the Reverend James Vanderweele. James, J-A-M-E-
23 S, Vanderweele, V-A-N-D-E-R-W-E-E-L-E. I'm with the
24 Greater New Orleans Interfaith Climate Coalition.
25 They're a research, education, and policy team.

1 Several months ago, while researching
2 Costa Rica's production of 98 -- 9.8 percent of its
3 electricity using renewable resources, I heard a
4 Costa Rican citizen say "We are doing everything we
5 can do to heal our ailing planet."

6 Those words struck me. Is our planet
7 actually ailing? A few months later, I came across
8 a January 2023 NASA report saying we are 1.1-degree
9 warmer than we were in the late 19th century. Now,
10 this 1.1 degrees is in Celsius, and that's
11 confusing. I have seldom seen this translated into
12 Fahrenheit. If I do that, it translates to a two-
13 degree Fahrenheit increase in temperature. As I
14 recall, when my infants were lethargic, or felt
15 warm, or had a runny nose, or were sneezing, they
16 may have had a temperature about 100.6 degrees.
17 However, the earth's temperatures are not normally
18 98.6, so the two degrees is irrelevant. Our
19 planet's 19th century average was 13.75 degrees
20 Centigrade, 56 and three-quarters Fahrenheit. It is
21 now 14.76, or 58.57 Fahrenheit. If we convert this
22 to a human measurement, the best way to determine if
23 our planet is ailing, the earth's temperature is now
24 running around 101.8 degrees Fahrenheit, and it is
25 still rising at a rate faster than scientists and

1 researchers had anticipated. Our planet cannot stay
2 at 101.8 degrees for long. Our Gulf's waters are
3 already over 90 degrees. High Island is 91.4. Lake
4 Charles is running at 92.1. There's smoke in New
5 York City, smoke and ozone warnings in the Midwest
6 today. The antarctic is melting. Greenland is
7 losing its glaciers. There are hotspots in Canada
8 much earlier than expected.

9 Louisiana has danced a lovely Cajun rhythm
10 with Miss Petrochemical, but it could have found a
11 new partner when Katrina and Rita pranced onto the
12 floor. I'm not going to say it's time to pinch
13 ourselves. But please take a look at the big
14 picture here. Our earth depends on it. The
15 temperatures have to come down for our planet. If
16 Pura Vida can take care of the planet, we who are
17 looking to preserve Sportsman's Paradise can do it
18 too. Let's go to renewables now.

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

20 Did you have your hand up? Please come
21 up.

22 **ZACHARY KOPKIN:** Hi. My name is Zachary
23 Kopkin, spelled Z-A-C-H-A-R-Y K-O-P-K-I-N. I live
24 in New Orleans, Louisiana. I'm a member and
25 supporter of the Coalition Against False Solutions.

1 And I'm here to oppose primacy for LDNR to regulate
2 Class VI injection wells for carbon capture in
3 Louisiana.

4 Carbon capture, as many have already said,
5 is already proven to fail in its two attempts in the
6 United States. And permitting this proven failure,
7 is simply guaranteeing future problems for our
8 beloved state. The Louisiana Department of Natural
9 Resources has already failed to protect us from
10 other forms of injection wells, such as in Bayou
11 Corne and many other examples.

12 I used to live in North Carolina, as well
13 as Georgia. I grew up in Georgia, spent most of my
14 adult life in North Carolina, both states plagued by
15 coal ash. And where Michael Regan came from in
16 North Carolina, the director of the EPA. And I was
17 proud to work on the effort to remediate coal ash in
18 North Carolina, where Duke Energy, much like
19 ExxonMobil and other fossil fuel companies, had
20 claimed that they were protecting our communities,
21 that they were benefiting our communities. And I'm
22 grateful that Michael Regan at the EPA, in the past
23 few years, have really come around to the
24 understanding of environmental justice,
25 environmental racism, and have come down to

1 Louisiana and found that we are the testing grounds
2 for so many of these dangerous technologies that
3 have put, particularly black, indigenous people of
4 color and low-income white communities, at danger
5 and have caused so much suffering for many decades.

6 And so, you know, when I talk to folks
7 back from where I'm from in North Carolina and
8 Georgia, where they've dealt with coal ash, they
9 worry about me and they worry about the people that
10 I care about in Louisiana, because we're known for
11 being an environmental wasteland. It's these
12 industries that have existed and dominated our state
13 for so long that have made us so. We're known for
14 economic, um -- for being at the bottom in terms of
15 quality of life, economically, educationally,
16 health, et cetera. At what point is the fossil fuel
17 industry going to raise us up from being in the
18 bottom 45, 46, all the way down to the absolute last
19 in so many of these areas? We have to stop putting
20 our faith in those industries and put our faith in
21 the people who have made those industries billions
22 of dollars over generations and generations. If our
23 people are healthy, if our people, who know their
24 land and care about their land and know what it used
25 to look like, are able to determine what it looks

1 like going forward -- and that's not LDNR. Those
2 regulatory agencies have also been captured by
3 industry.

4 So I really just urge you to listen to the
5 folks who are most impacted by these decisions and,
6 um, to -- to deny this application to the Louisiana
7 Department of Natural Resources.

8 Thank you.

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

10 Is there anybody else wishing to speak?
11 Anybody else?

12 Okay, folks, you are more than welcome to
13 remain in the room. At the moment, we don't have
14 any speakers, so we're just going to wait and see
15 how many people, if any, will trickle in. We are
16 here until noon. This session will run until noon.
17 So we'll stay here and we'll get back on the record
18 as soon as somebody comes in. Okay?

19 **(Off record at 10:30 a.m.)**

20 **(On record at 10:38 a.m.)**

21 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. Please note you
22 have three minutes to speak. Okay? Give us your
23 full name and spell it out for us, okay?

24 **BETTE BILLIOT:** Okay. My name is Bette
25 Billiot, B-E-T-T-E B-I-L-L-I-O-T.

1 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Are you ready?

2 **BETTE BILLIOT:** My name is Bette Billiot.

3 I am a citizen of the United Houma Nation, born and
4 raised in Dulac, Louisiana, in Terrebonne Parish,
5 where it was recently announced that over 40,000-
6 plus acres are being surveyed for a CCS project.
7 Terrebonne currently has the fastest rate of land
8 loss in not only the state of Louisiana, but in the
9 country.

10 I have been a community advocate for my
11 tribe, coastal communities, and the Gulf South for
12 many years now. I have traveled around the nation
13 and with international delegations, sharing our
14 story of Louisiana. The beauty of our indigenous
15 homelands, our cultural way of life, and even
16 sharing how industry has shaped our landscape and
17 continues to play a major role in all areas,
18 especially for communities of colors like mine and
19 those I work in.

20 For the past year, I have been a community
21 organizer for the Sierra Club, but don't think that
22 just because I work for an environmental
23 organization I don't know both sides of the
24 industry. I am an oil and gas baby. My late
25 father, mother, brother, and most of my family works

1 in some part of the industry, not only in Louisiana
2 but throughout the United States. Industry has
3 definitely taken some families out of poverty, while
4 at the same time putting many family members, like
5 my dad, and other community members, in early
6 graves.

7 Louisiana has the fifth highest cancer
8 mortality rate in the nation, according to an LSU
9 health study. But not only working directly for the
10 industry putting lives at risk daily, but numerous
11 boating accidents by commercial and recreational
12 fishermen, resulting in injury and/or death in
13 Louisiana waterways due to orphaned and abandoned
14 wells that DNR are supposed to monitor and maintain.
15 Yet the state feels that they can handle even more
16 responsibilities of these carbon waste injection
17 wells that would be strategically placed in already
18 vulnerable communities and waterways.

19 You don't have to go far to find multiple
20 failed attempts to contain industry waste. Look at
21 the Grand Bois Community versus Campbell Wells case,
22 which is one community over from mine, the Bayou
23 Corne sinkhole, and we should all be aware of what
24 happened in Satartia, Mississippi due to a CO2
25 pipeline failure.

1 Louisiana's elected officials have a track
2 record of supporting industry against the advice of
3 professional scientists and environmentalists.
4 Senator Sharon Hewitt filed a bill drafted by
5 Denbury into the legislature to make it more
6 difficult for landowners to push back against CO2
7 pipelines. That law was passed the same year that
8 her husband received royalties from Denbury,
9 according to an article by LA Illuminator.

10 Louisiana has a history of passing laws
11 that benefit industry over constituents. More
12 protection against storms is shown to industries,
13 while we are struggling to keep up with insurance
14 increases and having to take hard looks at our
15 finances to see if we're even going to be able to
16 afford the increases in our mortgages. Yet our
17 state continues to allow industries to overutilize
18 the items such as they did with LNG terminal in
19 Plaquemines, who received an \$80 million property
20 tax break.

21 Louisiana does not deserve to have primacy
22 with this track record.

23 Thank you.

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

25 Anybody else at this time wishing to

1 speak?

2 Okay. We'll go ahead and wait for our
3 next speaker then, okay? Thank you.

4 **(Off record at 10:41 a.m.)**

5 **(On record at 11:02 a.m.)**

6 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** So let's go ahead and go
7 back on the record.

8 Please give us your full name, spell out
9 your full name, and note that you have three
10 minutes. Okay?

11 **KATERINA ELLISON-BATT:** Okay. My full
12 name is Katerina Ellison-Batt. That's K-A-T-E-R-I-
13 N-A E-L-L-I-S-O-N hyphen B-A-T-T.

14 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Let us know when you're
15 ready.

16 **KATERINA ELLISON-BATT:** Okay, I'm ready.

17 I spent much of my life living in
18 Michigan, a state known for its pristine Great Lakes
19 and natural beauty. When I moved to Louisiana, I
20 got laughed at for asking if I could swim in the
21 Mississippi River. The idea of so much pollution
22 was foreign to me. How could there be a string of
23 towns known as Cancer Alley? What was so bad in the
24 water that we had to at times boil it? I had never
25 seen anything like it, just as I had never seen the

1 fields after fields taken up by oil refineries, with
2 smokestacks and warning sirens. And in one spot, a
3 small elementary school right next to a refinery.
4 It's estimated that by the time they leave school,
5 those kids' exposure levels to dangerous chemicals
6 will be at the usual level of 70-year-olds. And who
7 are we as a state if we cannot protect our youngest,
8 weakest members? Not the jobs of oil and natural
9 gas, the people of Louisiana, who are getting sick
10 and suffering every day because of companies who
11 face no consequences. And what will jobs and the
12 economy give you when someone close to you is harmed
13 because of air quality? And is it not strange to
14 advocate for carbon capture and storage when you
15 wouldn't want it in your own neighborhood?

16 These are questions, as a Michigander and
17 as someone who lives in Louisiana, that I can't wrap
18 my head around. Time and time again, we've seen the
19 destruction that things like oil spills and
20 hazardous materials can do to animals, people, and
21 the environment. One only has to think of the Exxon
22 Valdez oil spill to remember the pictures of animals
23 affected, covered in oil. This spill caused a
24 flurry of environmental activism, with many people
25 realizing for the first time what things like oil

1 and hazardous waste can do to our planet. There
2 were cries of "Never again," yet here in 2023, we
3 again find ourselves, society, in another similarly
4 dangerous activity. Why should we wait until the
5 inevitable diaster to start caring about the
6 environment?

7 Many words in Potawatomi are verbs.
8 Instead of "lake," they say "to be a lake." To be a
9 lake or a piece of land in Louisiana is dangerous.
10 Please do not grant Louisiana primacy in the
11 collecting carbon debate, and help protect the
12 environment we all share.

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

14 Anybody else? Anybody else wishing to
15 speak?

16 Okay. We'll wait for more speakers.

17 Thank you.

18 **(Off record at 11:05 a.m.)**

19 **(On record at 11:17 a.m.)**

20 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Are you here to speak?

21 **SPEAKER:** Yes, sir.

22 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. Let's get back on
23 the record.

24 Will you please give us your full name?
25 Spell it out for us. And note that you have three

1 minutes. Okay?

2 **ELISABETH MAROTA:** Okay. Elisabeth
3 Marota, E-L-I-S-A-B-E-T-H, Marota, M-A-R-O-T-A.

4 My name is Elisabeth Marota, and I'm
5 working for the Sierra Club as an intern. As a --
6 and also I am a Tulane student. I'm originally from
7 Massachusetts, but have fallen in love with
8 Louisiana, and the beautiful culture and environment
9 here.

10 The carbon capture and sequestration
11 program at Lake Maurepas is unresearched and could
12 be disastrous to its inhabitants and the inhabitants
13 of all Louisiana. One must only look at Satartia,
14 Mississippi, to see the dangers of a carbon spill.
15 A major CO2 released from a carbon pipeline caused
16 the residents to become ill and caused the wildlife
17 to perish. If this spill happened during the night,
18 the casualty rate would be incredibly high, as CO2
19 is known as the silent killer.

20 The Satartia rupture happened due to heavy
21 rainfall, something that happens quite commonly here
22 in Louisiana. A similar spill in Lake Maurepas
23 would cause the wildlife to die of asphyxiation.

24 We have heard about the 400 new jobs this
25 will bring, but no evidence that these jobs will go

1 locally, as Air Products is an international
2 corporation. If a carbon leak occurs at Lake
3 Maurepas, the flora and fauna will suffer, hurting
4 the jobs of local fishermen and farmers.

5 CCS is not well researched enough, and
6 Louisiana should not be the trial ground for new
7 technologies, especially with the stakes as high as
8 they are.

9 Thank you.

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

11 Anybody else?

12 Thank you.

13 **(Off record at 11:18 a.m.)**

14 **(On record at 11:27 a.m.)**

15 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Please give us your name,
16 spell your last name for us, and please note you
17 have three minutes. Okay?

18 **POOJA PRAZID:** Okay. My name is Pooja
19 Prazid, and my last name is spelled P-R-A-Z-I-D.

20 Can I go ahead?

21 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Are you ready, ma'am?

22 **POOJA PRAZID:** I am ready.

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

24 **POOJA PRAZID:** My name is Pooja Prazid,
25 and I'm a resident of St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana,

1 and I work as a chemical engineer. I'm speaking to
2 oppose granting primacy of Class VI wells to LDNR.

3 One of the requirements to be granted
4 primacy is that the well inspection program should
5 be responsive to citizen complaints. Currently, if
6 you go on the LDNR website and go to the section for
7 underground injection control and try to click
8 "Report an emergency" or "Injection and mining
9 directory," you are not able to access any further
10 links. I don't have much confidence in LDNR being
11 receptive to citizen complaints if they haven't even
12 noticed that their virtual methods to report an
13 emergency with injection wells hasn't worked in who
14 knows how many years.

15 As other commenters have mentioned, LDNR
16 has a pretty bad track record of enforcing the law
17 and effectively maintaining their own underground
18 injection control programs, which leads to disasters
19 that hurt local communities, such as Bayou Corne
20 sinkhole, which was caused by a collapsed
21 underground salt dome cavern, and forced residents
22 to evacuate for months, destroyed the natural
23 habitat, and hurt people's properties and land
24 values. This is another reason to reject granting
25 primacy to LDNR.

1 I also have some concerns about the
2 enforcement procedures in the application. So
3 there's only like a \$5,000 maximum penalty per day
4 per violation. It says nothing about using state
5 enforcement in shutting down site operations for
6 noncompliance and dangers to a USDW. So if the
7 company's operations are so profitable, that \$5,000
8 is chump change, and they can continue polluting
9 public water while paying a small fee to ensure the
10 production targets are met. I just think the
11 penalty needs to be much higher to actually deter
12 noncompliant behavior, instead of becoming like a
13 cost-benefit analysis for companies that take, um --
14 to decide whether production targets can be met at
15 the cost of a small civil penalty.

16 I also had some concerns about the
17 emergency response methods, which didn't properly
18 detail how LDNR would plan for evacuating residents
19 and notify residents of leakages, only something
20 about risk analysis and cost estimates. So I think
21 any application that doesn't have kind of a robust
22 emergency and remediation plan, that protects the
23 lives and health of state citizens, should be
24 rejected.

25 Those are the concerns I had for today.

1 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide
2 comments.

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

4 Anybody else at this time?

5 All right. Well, I saw the young lady's
6 hand go up first.

7 **PENELOPE POLLARD:** Hi. My name is
8 Penelope Pollard. That's P-E-N-E-L-O-P-E P-O-L-L-A-
9 R-D.

10 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. Are you ready?

11 **PENELOPE POLLARD:** Yes.

12 My name is Penelope Pollard, and I'm
13 speaking here today as a concerned Louisianian and a
14 young person who cares deeply for the ecological
15 status of our state. Rather than using my three
16 minutes to repeat the information that's been spoken
17 on both sides of this hearing, I will instead focus
18 on my stake as a young person who hopes to call
19 Louisiana home for the rest of my life.

20 Frankly, I'm not convinced that the grim
21 facts and statistics even really matter here, as the
22 petrochemical industry and their insatiable greed
23 has long dominated over environmental and human
24 health concerns. Making the best choices for the
25 people and wildlife of this state should not be a

1 political issue. Yet time and time again we've
2 found ourselves here, battling over proposals and
3 projects that, at their core, are decisions between
4 the protectin of many, or the increased profits of a
5 select few. It's with these concerns in mind that I
6 urge the EPA not to grant the LDNR primacy for Class
7 VI carbon injection wells.

8 Over the past couple of days of these
9 hearings, I've heard numerous oil and gas
10 stakeholders reference employment concerns and
11 economic opportunity as a point of support for CCS
12 expansion under the LDNR. They refer to CCS as a
13 critical part of reducing our net emissions, and
14 claim that by granting primacy to the state, local
15 accountability can be maintained. But I have a few
16 problems with these points.

17 First, by granting primacy to the state,
18 funding used to meet green goals will be more
19 limited. Given the state's poor track record of
20 maintaining its existing infrastructure, such as the
21 numerous abandoned wells that litter our land and
22 silently threaten our waterways, I find it very
23 unlikely that the state is actually capable of
24 properly managing Class VI wells. And the
25 mismanagement of these wells is not something to be

1 toyed with. I'd like to call attention to the town
2 of Satartia, Mississippi, where in February of 2020,
3 a major CO2 pipeline ruptured and intoxicated
4 residents, causing them to be disoriented and
5 asphyxiated, and causing dozens to need emergency
6 medical attention. When it comes to meddling with
7 the environment, risk and accidents are not a
8 question of "if," but rather a question of "when."

9 As for employment concerns, there is no
10 written guarantee that the jobs created with CCS
11 expansion will be jobs for Louisianians. Benefits
12 to the economy would be spread between states where
13 raw materials for project expansion would be
14 sourced. Additionally, nobody is considering the
15 economic loss the state would face if and when a
16 pipeline accident occurs, potentially wreaking havoc
17 on ecosystems and fisheries that constitute a major
18 portion of the state's economy and local
19 livelihoods.

20 Unfortunately, every day it feels more
21 like a pipe dream that ecological concerns will be
22 listened to. I'm faced with a choice, as a young
23 person, to have children and live with the guilt of
24 raising them in a state that's deteriorating at the
25 hands of Big Oil, or to forgo my lifelong desire of

1 being a mother, out of fear for the future
2 environmental health of this state.

3 CCS is risky and dangerous. It distracts
4 delays, and diverts funds from real solutions to
5 the climate reality. If we weren't caught up with
6 granting the state primacy for a practice that is,
7 at best, a Band-Aid solution, --

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

9 **PENELOPE POLLARD:** -- we could be
10 investing this time and energy into clean, proven
11 solutions that would transform the energy sector.

12 Thank you.

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

14 Sir?

15 **ERIC SMITH:** Good afternoon. My name is
16 Eric Smith. I'm the associate director of the
17 Tulane Energy Institute at Tulane University in New
18 Orleans, Louisiana. E-R-I-C S-M-I-T-H.

19 My remarks are going to be fairly brief. I
20 look at the issues from an economic standpoint. I'm
21 agnostic in terms of what types of energy people are
22 involved in. And my concern and my appeal is for
23 the granting of primacy, because without primacy we
24 can't dispose of the amount of CO2 that is produced
25 in this state. Without being able to store the CO2,

1 we can't produce the hydrogen that drives a lot of
2 the economic decision-making, both now, and as the
3 governor has pointed out, in the future as we
4 attempt to decarbonize state activities. We need to
5 be able to safely store CO2.

6 In terms of our experience with this, we
7 have about a hundred years of experience with
8 natural gas pipelines, and more recently with CO2
9 pipelines that have been operating for decades now.
10 We have a lot of experience with tertiary oil
11 recovery. We also have the ability to move hydrogen
12 around within the state. So we have a lot of the
13 infrastructure that other states might not have,
14 that would allow us to maintain and increase our
15 employment here in the State of Louisiana.

16 Currently, we receive about 46 billion
17 cubic feet of gas, natural gas a day, and ship 33.3
18 billion cubic feet of gas. We asked LNG export
19 terminals; about 63 percent of the LNG that's
20 exported out of the U.S. today is coming out of
21 Louisiana. So we know how to operate pipelines. We
22 also know how to operate underground storage. The
23 new thing in all of this is going to be saline
24 aquifer storage, and that -- what I would say there,
25 is that nobody in the country knows as much about it

1 or has as much potential for safely developing it as
2 does the Louisiana petrochemical industry.

3 Finally, I think Louisiana, despite what
4 you may have heard, has excellent oversight and
5 regulatory capabilities. I'm not going to go into
6 all of the details of the various agencies, but --
7 but the -- certainly DEQ and DNR here in Louisiana
8 have a long history of operating safe operations,
9 given the volume of material that gets processed in
10 the state.

11 My final and repeated plea, would be that
12 we have to have a way to maintain these
13 petrochemical and refining jobs, because they are
14 the highest-paying jobs, both blue-collar and white-
15 collar, that the state has. We have no way to
16 recover from what is arguably going to be a
17 financial disaster for the state, simply because we
18 are such an energy-oriented state.

19 Thank you very much.

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

21 Anybody else who wishes to speak at this
22 time? Okay.

23 **(Off record at 11:37 a.m.)**

24 **(On record at 11:38 a.m.)**

25 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Sir, are you here to make

1 a statement?

2 **SPEAKER:** Yes, I am, sir.

3 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. We'll go back on
4 the record. Please state your name, spell your last
5 name, and note that you have three minutes. Okay?

6 **BILL GOODELL:** Yes. Thank you. My name
7 is Bill Goodell, G-O-O-D-E-L-L.

8 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Are you ready, sir?

9 **BILL GOODELL:** I'm here today -- I am an
10 environmental law professor and I'm an environmental
11 lawyer. But I'm here today as a fact witness. And
12 I want to start by saying that, as I'm sure everyone
13 with EPA understands, enforcement is vital to the
14 success of any environmental regulatory program.
15 Dr. Paul Templet, former DEQ secretary and
16 environmental science professor at LSU, always
17 stressed the importance of enforcement, and adequate
18 funding and staffing, to assure that the regulatory
19 programs are, um, carried out properly.

20 Here we've got a situation where
21 Louisiana's agencies have not been able to properly
22 enforce. First of all, let me say this. You had a
23 GAO, general accounting office, report of EPA in
24 2011, where it was found that EPA was not properly
25 managing its oversight authority of the states. The

1 result was a lack of enforcement and the result was
2 a lack and -- a lack of compliance, and there was
3 some serious environmental issues that -- the result
4 of that.

5 On a state level, we have had the
6 Louisiana legislative auditor find that the Office
7 of Conservation was not properly managing its
8 orphaned well program. On a state level, the same
9 legislative auditor found that the DEQ was not
10 properly enforcing its air program. I throw that
11 out to say that the Louisiana enforcement is not
12 adequate, as found by independent auditors.
13 Therefore, primacy to Louisiana of this program does
14 not make sense.

15 One other point I would like to make, is
16 that I've been involved in litigation against oil
17 and gas companies for groundwater pollution. The
18 Office of Conservation has received data regarding
19 groundwater contamination of useable aquifer, at
20 hundreds of sites, over a hundred of them from me
21 alone. And the Office of Conservation, the DNR, has
22 not required anything to be done, ever, regarding
23 that documented contamination with data that was
24 sent to those agencies.

25 Thank you.

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

2 Anybody else at this time?

3 **(Off record at 11:41 a.m.)**

4 **(On record at 11:54 a.m.)**

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

7 Sir, please spell your name for us. And
8 note that you have three minutes, okay?

9 **JAMES HIATT:** Got you.

10 My name is James Hiatt, J-A-M-E-S H-I-A-T-
11 T. And I'm with For a Better Bayou out of southwest
12 Louisiana.

13 I was born and raised in southwest
14 Louisiana, and almost been a lifelong resident of
15 this state. I'm raising three children here. I
16 absolutely love southwest Louisiana, not only
17 because of the people, but because of the culture
18 and the way of life.

19 My father retired from a refinery, I spent
20 ten years working inside a refinery. I'm well
21 accustomed to what workers have to go through and
22 what the, um, the cognitive distance is between
23 providing for your family, having a good-paying job,
24 and the health and environmental impacts that are
25 associated with those things.

1 It is of -- the poverty of our own
2 imagination and -- and what we can do to shift.
3 We're talking about emissions, lowering emissions,
4 or capturing emissions. The DEQ and the DNR are
5 captured agencies that are not well-funded enough.
6 The people who work at these agencies have hearts of
7 gold who want good for their communities and for the
8 environment. But they are being hamstrung by
9 lobbyists and the legislation that continues to put
10 profit over people. We need jobs in Louisiana. The
11 thought that carbon capture is going to be the way
12 forward and that that is going to allow for good-
13 paying, clean jobs, is not true.

14 It is a greenwash, absolute absurdity that
15 we will allow the primacy to be in the State of
16 Louisiana, uh, and that will -- that we'll not
17 continue to build out and double down on fossil fuel
18 infrastructure that we're already seeing. In
19 southwest Louisiana, we have three of the LNG
20 facilities out of the seven that operate in this
21 country. We export a lot of gas. The one facility
22 that is being proposed is going to capture five
23 percent of their emissions. That does not count the
24 life cycle from fracking to piping, the energy
25 intensity to liquefy and ship overseas. That does

1 nothing for us.

2 To store this stuff underground -- we've
3 heard this several times, that, uh -- this is what
4 we have lots of experience doing: Permanently
5 destroying wetlands. We have plenty of experience
6 polluting communities, evading taxes, paying to
7 play, backroom deals, good ol' boy systems that do
8 not address environmental, climate, or generational
9 justice. And we have zero experience with
10 permanently sequestering any emissions. What
11 they've talked about we've done for decades, is pour
12 some of this same junk down in the hole to get more
13 of that oil and gas out. We see that air monitors
14 are consistently rejected by the legislation, even
15 though they would be paid for by the industry.

16 We cannot continue down this path and
17 allow primacy to be in this state that is so
18 captured. We need to be well-funded. The EPA needs
19 to be well-funded. Anybody trying to continue down
20 this path for the generations to come will be -- we
21 will be unleashing unnecessary suffering for
22 generations if we do not do something better.

23 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

24 **JAMES HIATT:** Thank you.

25 Okay. At this moment, we're going to go

1 ahead and close this session. The next session will
2 start at 1 p.m. Thank you.

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

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

5 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Good afternoon,
6 everybody. We are ready to start the 1:00 hearing.
7 So we are on the record, so this hearing is in
8 session.

9 Is there a Deborah Macalusa here? Larry
10 Alexie? Jerome Bertrand. Demico Singleton. Jason
11 Mouret. Dionna Nelson. Katherine Doyle. Karen
12 Tappin. Leland Hewlett. Ralph Williams. Calvin
13 Kibodeaux. David Wedge. Penny Palermo. Renee
14 Williams. John Little. Scott Couper. Jerome
15 Sandrock. Julia Fontenot. Mary Beth Russell.
16 Madele Irvin. Lacy McManus.

17 **SPEAKER:** Here.

18 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Please spell your name
19 for the record.

20 **LACY MCMANUS:** Sure. L-A-C-Y, McManus, M-
21 C-N-A-N-U-S.

22 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Are you ready?

23 **LACY MCMANUS:** Sure.

24 I'm Lacy McManus. I'm executive director
25 of future energy at GNO Inc., or Greater New

1 Orleans, Inc. We're the economic development
2 alliance for the ten-parish Greater New Orleans
3 region. In that role, we are charged with ensuring
4 that the economy of southeast Louisiana is thriving.
5 We attract and retain business and industry to the
6 Greater New Orleans region along several priority
7 verticals, one of which is the energy sector, which
8 is certainly foundational to our state's economy,
9 and undoubtedly foundational and instrumental in the
10 thriving economy of the Greater New Orleans region.

11 We are involved in the energy transition
12 specifically through what's -- a project known as
13 H2theFuture, which I have the pleasure of leading.
14 H2theFuture is an initiative that's actually
15 overseeing the hydrogen conversion and transition in
16 south Louisiana, through the support of a federal
17 grant from the Economic Development Administration,
18 to the tune of about \$50 million, which has been
19 matched by a state grant from Louisiana Economic
20 Development that's around \$24.5 million. So we have
21 nearly \$75 million in federal and state funds to
22 ensure that our partnerships with higher education
23 institutions, community colleges, and other economic
24 development organizations across south Louisiana are
25 supporting industry transitions from gray hydrogen

1 to green hydrogen through the development of
2 offshore wind, as well as blue hydrogen through
3 carbon capture and sequestration.

4 So my comments today are very much
5 centered around the economic development
6 opportunities and prosperity of south Louisiana as
7 it relates to EPA primacy that the state is
8 currently pursuing with the federal government.

9 So, at GNO Inc., when we see our industry
10 presence, and we understand from our industrial
11 partners and our board members the impetus and the
12 importance that they are putting around sequestering
13 carbon to reduce their emissions, we see not only
14 the opportunity to better the environment of
15 southeast Louisiana, but also a unique opportunity
16 to spur workforce development, to continue jobs, and
17 continue to develop and evolve the industry which
18 supports so many of our middle class jobs and the
19 middle class economy of southeast Louisiana in an
20 environmentally friendly, long-term, sustainable
21 way.

22 As we see the opportunities for green
23 hydrogen developing in the Gulf of Mexico, with the
24 advent of wind coming online in the forthcoming
25 years, we understand that there is a bridge needed

1 with our industrial partners to start sequestering
2 carbon and start reducing those emissions now, until
3 we're able to get that green hydrogen at full scale
4 and full capacity.

5 We understand that there is still a number
6 of questions that remain around carbon capture at
7 the scale that we are talking about in Louisiana
8 with our industrial partners. We are thrilled
9 through H2theFuture to be providing millions of
10 dollars to our higher education institutions, most
11 notably LSU, to do that R&D, that research and
12 development, around carbon capture. We are very
13 excited to see the opportunities for innovation and
14 entrepreneurship spurring out of those R&D
15 investments, as well as continued opportunities for
16 workforce development.

17 It's from these perspectives that we're
18 supporting the state's application for primacy with
19 the EPA. We have confidence in our state officials
20 and their ability to continue moving forward with
21 these projects and the permitting process with the
22 appropriate due diligence as required by our
23 citizens, our communities, and the federal
24 government as well.

25 So thank you for your time and your

1 attention. We are looking forward to a favorable
2 outcome.

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

4 Zachary Olson. Sherrie Breaux. John
5 Swisher. Eloise Reid. Cecelia Henderson. John
6 Starkey. Shane Tubre. Reeshemah Lewis. Mandi
7 Mitchell. Johnny Romero. Charles Williams. Blake
8 Pino. David Romero. Elizabeth Oliphant. Charles
9 Funderburk. John Flake. Keith Hall.

10 Are you ready, sir?

11 **KEITH HALL:** Yes.

12 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay.

13 **KEITH HALL:** Thank you for the opportunity
14 to testify.

15 My name is Keith Hall. I'm director of
16 the John P. Laborde Energy Law Center at Louisiana
17 State University, where I'm also a full professor
18 who teaches energy law course and does research on
19 energy law issues, including carbon capture and
20 storage. In fact, in the last year alone, I've
21 published two Law Review articles on carbon capture
22 and storage.

23 LSU itself does not take a position on
24 primacy. I'm here on behalf of myself to provide
25 information relevant to Louisiana's application for

1 primacy. The first large point I want to make is
2 that public policy favors primacy, provided that
3 there's a state willing and able to take on the
4 handling and administration of federal environmental
5 regulations, as I believe is the case here.

6 This public policy is demonstrated by
7 multiple acts of Congress, where Congress has
8 provided a mechanism for primacy for handling
9 federal environmental statutes, not only in the Safe
10 Drinking Water Act but in other federal
11 environmental statutes. And in this case, Louisiana
12 is interested in and desires primacy. Indeed,
13 there's bipartisan support for primacy in the State
14 of Louisiana. The democrat governor of the State of
15 Louisiana has expressly supported primacy, and the
16 Republican-dominated legislature also has supported
17 carbon capture and primacy. There's legislation
18 authorizing the Office of Conservation to seek
19 primacy, and in the latest legislative session, the
20 legislature rejected several attempts to restrict
21 carbon capture, and did so by wide margins.

22 The second point I'd like to make is that
23 Louisiana is very capable of overseeing the Class VI
24 UIC program. The Louisiana Office of Conservation
25 already has primacy for Classes I through V under

1 the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Office of
2 Conservation obtained primacy in 1982, so over 40
3 years ago, and has done an excellent job in
4 administering the Safe Drinking Water Act for
5 Classes I through V over the past four-plus decades.
6 Further, the Office of Conservation has increased
7 its staffing, both on the legal side and the
8 technical side, in anticipation of administering the
9 Class VI program, and has promulgated final
10 regulations to comprehensively regulate UIC Class VI
11 wells.

12 Outside of the Office of Conservation,
13 there's also expertise within the state university
14 system that can be supportive. I would point to the
15 LSU Petroleum Engineering Department, which is not
16 only an excellent engineering department, but also
17 offers a concentration in carbon capture and
18 storage. The LSU Energy Law Center studies primacy
19 and carbon capture. And the LSU Center for Energy
20 Studies does economic studies on energy, including
21 carbon capture.

22 I thank you for the opportunity to testify
23 today.

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

25 Jo Banner? Brian Snyder. Tammie Ford.

1 Blake Phillips.

2 **BLAKE PHILLIPS:** Hi. Blake Phillips, B-L-
3 A-K-E P-H-I-L-L-I-P-S.

4 My name is Blake Phillips. I'm a native
5 of Zachary, Louisiana, and a graduate of LSU and
6 LSUS. And I'm here on behalf of EnLink Midstream in
7 support of Louisiana's primacy application. I would
8 like to thank the EPA for holding this public
9 hearing, and LDNR for your diligence throughout this
10 process.

11 EnLink provides midstream infrastructure
12 services, and our history in Louisiana extends over
13 70 years. In Louisiana, we have 230 employees who
14 safely operate over 4,000 miles of pipeline, as well
15 as processing, storage, and fractionation
16 facilities. Many of our downstream customers have
17 been decarbonizing their manufacturing processes for
18 years, and recently have begun pursuing CCS to
19 achieve carbon reduction goals.

20 Because of EnLink's extensive pipeline
21 network in Louisiana and proximity to CO2 sources
22 and sinks, EnLink has the capability to repurpose
23 some of our pipelines from natural gas service to
24 CO2 service, which improves project timelines and
25 costs, and reduces environmental impacts. Last

1 October, we announced an agreement to transport CO2
2 from the Mississippi River industrial corridor to
3 ExxonMobil's sequestration hub in Vermilion Parish
4 beginning in 2025. We have also executed letters of
5 intent to develop projects with several other
6 companies developing sequestration sites in
7 Louisiana, reputable companies with long histories
8 in the state. We envision EnLink's network
9 receiving CO2 from many industrial sources and
10 delivering CO2 to many sequestration hubs.

11 But to build the infrastructure necessary
12 for Louisiana to achieve its CO2 reduction goals,
13 and to meet the demand for CCS services, our
14 industry must have more certainty on the regulatory
15 framework and permitting timelines. From our
16 experience, LDNR is best positioned to manage the
17 regulatory authority for Class VI wells. EnLink has
18 a long history working with LDNR, which regulated
19 our intrastate pipelines, coastal zone projects, and
20 Class II and III injection wells. In our opinion,
21 LDNR's regulatory authority over these programs is
22 one of the best examples of cooperative federalism
23 in the country. LDNR is best positioned to manage
24 the regulatory authority for Class VI wells because,
25 one, they have the best working knowledge of

1 Louisiana geology, a skilled workforce, and the
2 framework to hire new staff to evaluate geology
3 capabilities, determine well requirements, and
4 enforce compliance. Two, it strengthens and
5 streamlines the permitting process. Applicants will
6 have confidence in an experienced regulator and a
7 track record of thorough and timely reviews, plus
8 this alleviates the federal workload for project
9 [sic] in other states. And three, communities
10 benefit when decision-making occurs close to where
11 projects are developed. Stakeholders can better
12 engage with regulatory officials in their home state
13 rather than federal regulators in another.

14 EnLink Midstream requests the EPA to
15 proceed with authorizing Louisiana regulatory
16 authority --

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

18 **BLAKE PHILLIPS:** Thank you.

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

20 Mary Fisher. Leon Zoller. Aeron
21 Averette.

22 Okay. Is there anybody else I haven't
23 called? I think the gentleman on the back that --
24 yes. You, sir, you have been waiting for a while?
25 What is your name? You're here to speak, correct?

1 Give a comment?

2 **SPEAKER:** Yes, I'm here to speak. My time
3 isn't till between 6 and 8, but I was hoping I could
4 get in early.

5 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay.

6 **SHAWN WALDRON:** Hi. My name Shawn, S-H-A-
7 W-N, Waldron, W-A-L-D-R-O-N. I'm an attorney and a
8 graduate from LSU Law Center. I'm here on behalf of
9 Consumer Energy Alliance and our membership, in
10 strong support of the proposed application revision
11 that would allow the Louisiana Department of Natural
12 Resources to issue UIC permits for geologic
13 sequestration facilities as Class VI wells.

14 CEA advocates for families, seniors,
15 farmers, organized labor, and small businesses
16 across our growing nation. CEA represents over 375
17 member companies and more than 500,000 voters in the
18 fight for sustainable, affordable, and reliable
19 energy for all American consumers. CEA is energy
20 agnostic; we don't favor one form of energy over the
21 other.

22 We believe that carbon capture utilization
23 storage technologies will prolong the life of
24 valuable economy-sustaining industries which empower
25 Louisianians and provide significant contributions

1 to its workforce and positively impact the entire US
2 economy. These technologies will provide one of the
3 most significant and meaningful opportunities for
4 our nation to reduce the carbon dioxide these
5 facilities emit, to foster a safe and clean future
6 for Louisiana communities and its environment, as
7 well as that of the entire nation.

8 By granting Louisiana the ability to
9 permit Class VI wells, the EPA is taking a necessary
10 step to maintain and extend Louisiana's global
11 leadership in transformative energy innovation.

12 Louisiana citizens employed at the
13 appropriate state government agencies are best
14 qualified to evaluate Class VI permit applications,
15 due to decades-long experience and knowledge of
16 Louisiana's environment.

17 As a representative of small businesses
18 and industrial operators in Louisiana, CEA
19 recognizes the important role Louisiana's industrial
20 facilities play in contributing to the economy of
21 their local communities. These facilities produce
22 important raw materials that keep goods and energy
23 affordable for American consumers. However, without
24 CCS, market forces pressuring these industries to
25 decarbonize will make it more expensive, and

1 technologically unfeasible, for many Louisiana
2 facilities to continue operating. CCS, under the
3 guidance of Louisiana's regulatory authorities, can
4 help accomplish both of these goals. While
5 Louisiana's industrial facilities continue producing
6 affordable and reliable energy, carbon capture
7 technologies can limit their emissions while helping
8 to meet federal and global greenhouse gas reduction
9 goals, especially in light of the EPA's newly
10 proposed power plant rules.

11 CCS enables our great nation to more fully
12 move towards our shared environmental goals without
13 sacrificing our economy, jobs, and livelihoods. This
14 is why CEA will support Louisiana's ability to
15 permit its own Class VI wells.

16 Thank you.

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

18 While we wait, I read through the entire
19 list of speakers already, so I'm going to go back
20 and start re-reading them again for the people that
21 just came in. Okay? So if I call on you, please
22 just step up and make sure that you spell your name
23 for the reporter. And please note that you have
24 three minutes to make your comment.

25 Deborah Macalusa. Larry Alexie. Jerome

1 Bertrand. Demico Singleton. Jason Mouret. Dionna
2 Nelson. Katherine Doyle. Karen Tappin.

3 **KAREN TAPPIN:** Hello. My name is Karen
4 Tappin. I live in Louisiana. And we work both --
5 my husband and I both worked on the boats with the
6 oilfields. Now the oilfield is slowly going down.
7 There are a lot of houses for sale. A lot of people
8 have moved away. A lot of people lost their homes
9 because they lost their jobs because of the
10 oilfield. Seems like Louisiana doesn't really want
11 to help the people if they're letting their jobs go.

12 And we have -- we can rely on ourselves
13 and not other countries who are foreign. We are
14 obligated to supply everything we can for the United
15 States and for other countries. Now, why we don't
16 do this, I have no idea. Why are people losing
17 their jobs, losing their homes, can't get food on
18 the table? I have no idea. All I know is that
19 they're losing their jobs, they're losing their
20 homes, and the work is going else places and not
21 here in this state. People move out of the state,
22 they look for jobs.

23 Down in Louisiana, we rely on the
24 oilfields. The oilfield is our business down here.
25 Supply boats, the rigs outside, they are all people

1 that work there, their families, put food on the
2 table, give them a place -- a roof over their head.
3 And have them live in Louisiana and work in
4 Louisiana.

5 Thank you for your time and, um, and God
6 bless Louisiana, and I hope everything works out.
7 Thank you.

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

9 Leland Hewlett. Ralph Williams. Calvin
10 Kibodeaux. David Wedge. Penny Palermo.

11 **PENNY PALERMO:** Good afternoon. My name
12 is Penny, P-E-N-N-Y, Palermo, P-A-L-E-R-M-O. And
13 I'm 77 years old. I was born in New Orleans and
14 raised in Slidell. Now I live in Holden, Louisiana.
15 I went to Catholic school and quit in the tenth
16 grade. In 1977, a friend talked me into getting my
17 GED. I was laid off in June of 2020 after 25 years
18 with the same company. My friend talked me into
19 taking a business course, and I got my associate's
20 degree in February, and this month I'm going for my
21 bachelor's degree in business. I would like to
22 start a business and thought this would be the best
23 plan of action to help me get started.

24 I love America and I've lived here all my
25 life in Louisiana. If the gas and oil industry were

1 taken out of Louisiana, we would lose a lot of jobs,
2 and we would lose a lot of seafood, which is one of
3 the main foods here. One of my sons is an
4 industrial painter, and a grandson is a diesel
5 engineer who works offshore, and my son-in-law works
6 in a chemical plant. They would lose their jobs.
7 So many jobs would be lost. I believe it would ruin
8 the state.

9 As a mother, I urge you to keep the oil
10 and gas industry in Louisiana by granting Class VI
11 primacy.

12 Thank you for listening, and have a
13 blessed day.

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

15 Renee Williams. John Little.

16 **JOHN LITTLE:** Good afternoon. My name is
17 John Little, J-O-H-N L-I-T-T-L-E. Thank you for
18 allowing the time to speak to you today.

19 I'm John Little. I'm a 30-year resident
20 of Iberville Parish and a lifelong resident of the
21 State of Louisiana. I have two children, one who
22 recently graduated high school this past May, having
23 already completed multiple classes with LSU before
24 graduating, and will be attending LSU this fall. My
25 other is a senior at LSU who will graduate in the

1 next year, majoring in chemical engineering.

2 Along with my family, I have always lived
3 south of I-10 in Louisiana, enjoying the outdoors
4 with family and friends. Whether it's hunting and
5 fishing, or cooking outdoors, being in the
6 environment that is Louisiana is one of the few
7 things that is more important to us than LSU sports.

8 We live south of I-10. We raise our
9 families on the edge of the Atchafalaya Basin, with
10 environment -- and natural geologic formations are
11 more than just what surrounds us. It's part of each
12 of our lives every day. We love it.

13 I worked as a law enforcement officer in
14 Louisiana for almost 30 years. I've worked closely
15 with chemical and petroleum industries, not only
16 living next to them, but working with them,
17 providing security for them in an off-duty capacity
18 to provide extra income for my family. Every day, I
19 am in contact with people who work themselves, or
20 have family who work, in the chemical and petroleum
21 industries, most who live within ten miles of my own
22 home. The men and women who work in this industry
23 have chosen to make Louisiana their home and place
24 to raise their families. The safety and
25 environmental impacts is of the utmost importance to

1 them all. Their work directly impacts not just the
2 community, but their own families. No one cares
3 more about what happens in Louisiana than someone
4 who calls it home.

5 I support the EPA, and all state and
6 federal government agencies. I'm one of the most
7 patriotic men in Louisiana, and I'm completely Team
8 USA. I am Team USA, but I'm also League Louisiana.
9 No one will care more about Louisiana than people
10 who call it home. I support the chemical and
11 petroleum industries. I support the crucial
12 industries in the State of Louisiana, along with
13 Class VI primacy, so that the representatives of the
14 State of Louisiana can be responsible for the
15 permitting, monitoring, and enforcing regulations
16 related to CO2 storage within its jurisdictions.
17 This will enable the state to tailor regulations to
18 specific geologic conditions, enhance oversight, and
19 ensure compliance with environmental protection
20 standards.

21 I urge you to approve Louisiana's
22 application for Class VI primacy. I believe
23 Louisiana will always make the best decisions for
24 the people of the State of Louisiana.

25 Thank you for your time.

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

2 Scott Couper.

3 **SCOTT COUPER:** Good afternoon. I'm Scott
4 Couper, C-O-U-P-E-R.

5 Living in Ascension Parish, own property
6 in St. James, businesses in Baton Rouge and in the
7 Livingston-Tangipahoa Parish line and a camp in
8 Iberville Parish. So I live, work, and play in six
9 of the highest carbon-producing parishes in
10 Louisiana.

11 I'm an outdoorsman. Spend my time hiking,
12 biking, hunting, and fishing. As an outdoorsman, I
13 have tremendous respect and love for our
14 environment. I look forward to spending time with
15 nature with my three grandchildren.

16 I'm here today speaking as an
17 environmentalist. At the same time, I'm the COO of
18 PALA, an industrial construction company. With an
19 engineering background and education, have basic
20 knowledge of both carbon capture and (indiscernible)
21 processes. Carbon has been and will continue to be
22 a byproduct of industry, result of fulfilling our
23 needs for consumer products, which are made of
24 plastic, aluminum, and steel, all of which are
25 managed -- all of which are manufactured here in

1 south Louisiana. The agricultural industry,
2 specifically making fertilizer, which helps feed our
3 families, releases very high levels of carbon, in
4 addition to energy sources for our homes and our
5 vehicles, add to the carbon released.

6 CO₂, as you all know, is not really a
7 dangerous chemical. It's the fizz in Coke and other
8 carbonated drinks. Never met anyone that stopped
9 drinking Coke because it was full of CO₂. However,
10 the high levels of CO₂ released in the air is a
11 long-term environmental concern. And we need to
12 take action in a timely manner, which is now.

13 The best technology to minimize the carbon
14 environment is the CCUS process, collecting the
15 carbon directly from the facilities which produced
16 in high volume and piping it to a location where it
17 can be stored safely underground. It puts the
18 carbon back where came from: the ground. Louisiana
19 is very blessed to have a geological structure where
20 the carbon can be safely stored 5,000 or so feet
21 deep, under multiple layers of capstone, in
22 proximity to the high sources of the carbon.

23 But we're here to talk about primacy for
24 type VI wells. Louisiana has had primacy of type I,
25 II, III, IV, and V wells for over forty years.

1 Louisiana has the proven ability to permit and
2 monitor the wells in a timely, safe, and
3 environmentally responsible manner. LDNR and the
4 Office of Conservation have in-depth knowledge of
5 our state's geology, and the safest methods to
6 inject and store carbon in the ground. We have a
7 state government leaders who understand the
8 importance of CCUS to Louisiana and are committed to
9 providing the necessary funding to ensure the best
10 resources to both permit and monitor type VI wells.
11 In addition, LSU and ULL, the local universities
12 here, are leaders in the carbon capture and
13 sequestration research. Allowing Louisiana primacy
14 is a critical step to removing the carbon from the
15 environment, from our air, in a timely and effective
16 manner.

17 Louisiana has this opportunity now to
18 reduce carbon from the environment, a proven track
19 record of permitting and monitoring wells, the
20 engineering expertise, and leading researchers. We
21 have industry, academia, and government support.
22 Asking you to please allow Louisiana primacy for
23 type VI wells so we can turn this into reality.

24 Thank you for allowing me to speak, and
25 appreciate y'all taking the time to listen.

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

2 Jerome Sandrock. Julia Fontenot. Mary
3 Beth Russell. Madele Irvin. Zachary Olson. Sherrie
4 Breaux. John Swisher. Eloise Reid. Cecelia
5 Henderson. John Starkey. Shane Tubre. Reeshemah
6 Lewis. Mandi Mitchell. Johnny Romero. Charles
7 Williams. Blake Pino. David Romero. Elizabeth
8 Oliphant. Charles Funderburk. John Flake.

9 **JOHN FLAKE:** Good afternoon. I'm John
10 Flake, F-L-A-K-E. I've served as a professor of
11 chemical engineering at LSU for the last 17 years.

12 Our state is one of the most vulnerable in
13 terms of the impacts of climate change. For
14 example, most of the land below Interstate 10 sits
15 at an elevation of less than five feet, and sea
16 levels are now rising at rates near half an inch per
17 year.

18 We're also part of the problem. Industries
19 in our state currently emit over a hundred million
20 metric tons of CO2 per year. Our state ranks third
21 in crude refining, natural gas production, we rank
22 second in ethylene manufacturing, and we lead the
23 nation in ammonia production.

24 The ammonia that we produce is critical to
25 agriculture. The fixed nitrogen that is produced in

1 Donaldsonville is literally part of America's DNA.
2 The ethylene that we produce is used to make
3 everyday products, from laundry detergents, milk
4 jugs, and tennis shoes. The world needs the
5 products made in Louisiana, and we are obliged to
6 produce them sustainably. I should add that crude
7 and natural gas are limited resources, and I believe
8 they'll gradually be displaced by renewables in the
9 form of green hydrogen and electrical power over the
10 next few decades. The energy transition takes time,
11 and we can't afford to shut down plants while we're
12 waiting for renewables to come online. CO2
13 sequestration is a proven technology and allows
14 sustainable manufacturing.

15 Every year, my colleagues and I produce
16 hundreds of engineers and geologists who are well
17 prepared to safely capture, transport, and sequester
18 CO2. While there's always some risk, I'm certain
19 that the professionals in Louisiana, including those
20 at the Department of Natural Resources, are well
21 qualified and can handle primacy of Class VI wells.

22 Thank you.

23 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you.

24 Jo Banner. Brian Snyder. Tammie Ford.
25 Mary Fisher. Leon Zoller. Aeron Averette.

1 Okay. We've gone through the list twice
2 already. Is there anybody in this room who wishes
3 to speak at this moment?

4 Sir in the back, please come to the --
5 okay.

6 **SPEAKER:** Good afternoon. Thank you for
7 allowing me to speak.

8 My name is Benjamin Hoffman (sp.). I am
9 the campaign manager for Sunrise New Orleans, an
10 environmental organization that protects the people
11 of Louisiana. Long-time Louisiana resident. I'm
12 speaking against the LDNR having primacy over the
13 Class VI wells.

14 A lot of people have come up here today
15 speaking about the safety of CCS. I think it's well
16 known that that's widely disputed. CCS is a false
17 solution peddled by the very industry that it's
18 supposed to regulate. It's a false solution that's
19 known to be false by the people who are trying to
20 profit off of it, which makes it a lie.

21 The people of Louisiana have been lied to
22 for far too long about the environmental impacts of
23 these types of projects by the people who are
24 profiting off of these projects. The jobs are real.
25 People need to keep their jobs. But we need a just

1 transition to safer jobs. The people of Louisiana
2 deserve to be the people employed to help that. And
3 that's what we should be putting our energy towards.

4 I -- when it comes to regulation of this
5 industry, I frankly don't trust the LDNR. I don't
6 trust Louisiana to do this itself. The EPA needs to
7 be involved. It's sort of a "fox in the henhouse"
8 situation here. And we know that this is widely
9 disputed as to whether or not it's safe technology.
10 That's -- that's not worth risking. It's real
11 people's lives. It's real people's backyards. It's
12 our food. It's our future. It's our environment.
13 If we truly love this state, if we truly love the
14 people here, then we need to take all the
15 consideration we possibly can when it comes to these
16 industries.

17 So I support every measure to check the
18 safety of this for as long as it takes, not rush
19 through any sort of situation just because the
20 petrochemical industry needs to make some last-ditch
21 money, and before we all know that eventually it's
22 going to have to go, because it's poisoning the
23 earth.

24 So, I'm pleading and speaking against the
25 LDNR having primacy.

1 Thank you.

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

3 Ma'am, I think one of you had your hands
4 up, wanting to speak? Please come to the desk.

5 **NIKI LEBLANC:** Good afternoon. My name is
6 Niki LeBlanc. I'm 58 years old. It's N-I-K-I L-E-
7 B-L-A-N-C.

8 I work in the school system and my husband
9 is a supervisor in a chemical plant. And I have a
10 special needs granddaughter, and I would think that
11 we have a better future for her and our family as
12 well in the future. I have family that works in the
13 oil and gas industry, so it would be necessary to
14 keep the industry in Louisiana going for all people
15 who are relying on oil and gas. So carbon capture
16 would be needed for the oil and gas industry to
17 survive. Our town and towns around us that rely on
18 oil and gas to keep it alive, if we didn't -- if we
19 don't keep the oil and gas in Louisiana, our town
20 would most likely die. We need our government to
21 take our needs into consideration and keep the
22 industry in Louisiana. As a grandmother, I am
23 urging you to keep the oil and gas industry in
24 Louisiana by granting Class VI primacy.

25 Thank you for your time to -- and

1 listening to what we have to say to keep our great
2 state and country alive.

3 Thank you.

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

5 Yes, come to the desk, please.

6 **SPEAKER:** Good afternoon. My name is Dr.
7 Briska (sp.) (indiscernible) Benoit, and for 40
8 years I worked with students and teachers. And for
9 73 years, I have been in south Louisiana. So I can
10 attest firsthand to the devastation that it has done
11 to my community, because so many men and women work
12 in the oilfield, and a lot less are working now. I
13 ran into an old student and he said, Can you believe
14 that I'm a boat captain making \$500 a day? And I --
15 I'm just wondering -- that was a few years ago. I'm
16 just wondering if he's still working now, bringing
17 supplies and men to the rigs. I doubt it. I ran
18 into another old student, and he said, Things are
19 not going that well, because I had to retire early.
20 The company forced them, for lack of business in the
21 oilfield.

22 So, it has been a rough go. I live south
23 of New Orleans. And it -- it has been heartbreaking
24 to see the effect that the oil and gas industry has
25 had on my community. We want, and I urge you to

1 vote yes, on this carbon project, so that the oil
2 industry can build up again.

3 And, um, on a personal level, I am never
4 giving up my gas stove. That's -- that's for sure.
5 And, um, I would just like to say that in December,
6 they will be drilling for oil and natural gas on my
7 property. So of course I want clean air, clean
8 water, which every company wants. They don't want
9 their people sick. So if this carbon project helps
10 that to happen, we want it right here, in Louisiana,
11 where it can be done quickly, and do away with all
12 the federal red tape.

13 Thank you.

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

15 Ma'am?

16 **MAUREEN PITRE:** My name is Maureen Pitre,
17 P-I-T-R-E. I'm a lifelong resident of Louisiana,
18 and I'm thanking you for seeking out our opinions
19 and for our communities, and addressing the approval
20 of Louisiana's application for Class VI primacy.

21 I was born in New Orleans, live in south
22 Louisiana, souther, where Bresika (sp.) lives, than
23 just about anything, just above Grand Isle. I'm
24 recently widowed. I've taught for forty-plus years
25 in the education system in Lafourche Parish for over

1 40 years, and I'm recently widowed. Still very
2 active in my community. And we live in a very
3 close-knit Cajun community, Cut Off, Louisiana.
4 Across the bayou from my house, because there's a
5 bayou that separates the two highways we have,
6 Highway 308 and Highway 1, is Louisiana Offshore Oil
7 port. The oil industry is vital to our community.
8 It is what has brought in the revenues to our
9 community for generations. So it's quite important
10 to us. Along with it is the commercial fishing
11 industry. And that's what our people do. We've been
12 devastated by the downturn of the oil economy.

13 These industries have suffered from
14 stringent regulations in the Gulf of Mexico and
15 increasing imports of foreign oil and gas in the
16 refining, and the shrimp and fish industries. And
17 these industries are vital to our community. So we
18 need them to be, um, no longer declining and
19 decimated by near total destruction. And then
20 Hurricane Ida kind of finished our community --
21 almost finished us off almost two years ago.
22 Consequently, more than a fifth of our population
23 has left our parish, and we're a small parish to
24 begin with. So it's added to the migration of many
25 of our children and grandchildren for financial

1 opportunities out of the state, and we want them
2 back. I want my -- my girls have left. I want my
3 three sons to stay. They love our community. And
4 they do things in the community that are vital, but
5 they need to be able to support their families too.
6 So, we want the oil and gas industry assisted as
7 much as possible. We are a deeply rooted community
8 whose facing the decline of the oil and gas industry
9 has been a large problem.

10 Hydrocarbon production has been the life
11 blood of our state, our nation, and the world. So I
12 do support primacy for the carbon recapture
13 technique here in Louisiana. It is a tremendous
14 opportunity for revenue to revitalize us and to
15 generate the income that would restore our
16 businesses locally and statewide. Because I'm a
17 Louisiana native, who was swept off my feet by my
18 Cajun husband, who worked offshore for the summers
19 to support his scholarship to Northeast Louisiana
20 University, and whose family continues to be deeply
21 rooted in its heritage, I urge you to approve
22 Louisiana's application for Class VI primacy.

23 Thank you and God bless you.

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

25 Anybody else?

1 **LOIS OLIVER:** Good afternoon. My name is
2 Lois, L-O-I-S, Oliver, O-L-I-V-E-R.

3 I have lived in Louisiana for all my life.
4 Seventy-five years. You know how old I am now.

5 But, um, I am here today in support of the oil and
6 gas industry. And carbon capture. I am urging the
7 EPA, please, to grant Class VI primacy to Louisiana.

8 Thank you.

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

10 Do we have a Zachary Olson here?

11 **SPEAKER:** Right here.

12 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Mr. Olson?

13 **ZACHARY OLSON:** Hello. First of all, I
14 want to say thank you for allowing us to speak in
15 this meeting.

16 My name is Zachary Olson. I've lived as a
17 resident of Louisiana for most of my life. I'm
18 married, have two children. They're grown up.
19 Currently, after a 38-year career with Entergy
20 electrical utility company, I am retired. I worked
21 with the data control circuits from generation to
22 the substations. Some of these substations were in
23 the chemical plants and the other ones were in
24 residential neighborhood. So I said that to say is,
25 I've got a background in electricity and in the

1 chemical industry; okay?

2 The Entergy power company has coal, oil,
3 and gas, and other sources of power. They use about
4 ten percent renewals, meaning solar and wind and
5 things like that, where they connect with other
6 companies. They even have one source of power where
7 they burn the rice, um, husk. It's one of the small
8 substations right near where they have a lot of
9 farms going on; okay?

10 Now that I'm retired, I like to drive my
11 vehicle. I got a 25-foot long motor home. I go
12 camping, I go all over Louisiana. Make one-day
13 trips pretty often; okay? The engine in the
14 generator uses diesel fuel. It also uses propane
15 fuel for cooking and for hot water. We need gas and
16 oil; okay? There's also a solar-powered generator
17 that I use to power the refrigeration, the fans, and
18 the battery charger.

19 I've said all that to say that we need a
20 combination of oil and gas to power modern life.
21 Without this oil and gas, our modern lives would be
22 much different. It would be something like back
23 living in the early 1800s in the horse-and-buggy
24 days. We use gas and oil to power most things on
25 the highway, meaning cars, trucks, ships, airplanes,

1 and everything else. There is no battery-powered
2 airplane; okay?

3 Back in 1977 to 1980, there were fuel
4 shortages that were caused by political problems
5 between the United States and the Middle Eastern
6 countries. I've said that to say, we were, at that
7 time, dependent upon foreign oil production. We had
8 to wait for hours in line to fill up our gas tank.
9 You might remember that. You're probably younger
10 than me. I'm 70 years old; okay?

11 I've said that to say, we need oil and gas
12 in America, and we need to make it here. We all
13 breathe the same air. We value the power that's
14 produced from the oil and gas for modern life. We
15 also value you to issue this permit, and we hope
16 that you approve the application for the Class VI
17 primacy application to capture and control the
18 carbon, because we need clean air.

19 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, Mr. Olson.

20 **ZACHARY OLSON:** Thank you for your time.

21 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you. Is there
22 anybody -- okay.

23 **JOE HAGAN:** Afternoon. My name is Joe
24 Hagan. I've left here in '66 and moved all over the
25 country for a while. Ended up in Jacksonville,

1 Florida for about 18 years.

2 The gas shortage that they said in the
3 '80s that they had? There was no gas shortage. I
4 watched railroad cars go from Jacksonville to New
5 York and turn around and come back because they
6 didn't have anyplace to unload the stuff. They were
7 putting gas in empty gas stations that were shut
8 down. They were filling the tanks and putting the
9 -- and calling it a shortage. There was no
10 shortage. They had plenty of gas. It was just --
11 it was a political plot. And a lot of this, um, we
12 got going on now is political. It's -- there is no
13 reason for it other than somebody lining their
14 pockets.

15 The EPA, I -- yes, we need the EPA. Yes,
16 we need the carbon -- we need this VI to come back
17 to Louisiana and be controlled by Louisiana. That's
18 the reason I left here, because there wasn't -- I
19 couldn't find a decent job here in Louisiana. I
20 first became a licensed aircraft mechanic. I stayed
21 in the field for about six years and never used my
22 license because there wasn't any purpose. I worked
23 for the Department of Defense because that was the
24 only job I could find. And I dealt with a lot of,
25 um, federal bureaucracy all my life until I retired.

1 And, um, it just -- um, you see people that -- local
2 people could know and know what's going on with
3 this, um, the gas and oil industry, these people
4 make a living at it. I've been on the rigs. When I
5 went to work for the FAA, I flew out to the rigs
6 quite often. Spent the day with these guys on the
7 rigs. Very professional guys. Most of them got big
8 family and, um, love their country. Love Louisiana.

9 And if you don't keep this industry here,
10 I don't know what this world's going to do, because
11 I'm telling you that sending it overseas, how you
12 going to make a living twenty years from now? If
13 you put and keep sending stuff overseas and keep
14 moving stuff out of this country, how you going to
15 make a living? The politicians up in Washington
16 ain't going to care whether you make a living or
17 not. They're trying to shut you down. Look at all
18 the stuff going on in this day and time. And it's
19 all political. There's no reason for it, other than
20 somebody lining their pockets. And it's not just on
21 the Republican side, it's on the Democrat -- it's on
22 the Democrat side worse right now, but -- it flips
23 back and forth, and, um, if you'll take any
24 politician and look at his record, nine times out of
25 ten you're going to find he flip-flops from year to

1 year, whichever one will get him elected.

2 So, um, I just don't, um -- if you don't
3 start keeping stuff locally, I don't know what you
4 going to do with this -- this country's going to
5 fail --

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

7 **JOE HAGAN:** And we don't need that. We
8 need this -- maintain our own personal life here in
9 the states.

10 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, sir. Your
11 time is over.

12 Okay. Anybody else wishing to speak at
13 this moment?

14 Okay. We're going to take a quick ten-
15 minute break. Hopefully we will get more speakers
16 then. So let's go ahead and adjourn for ten
17 minutes. Please be back at 2:00.

18 **(Off record at 1:52 p.m.)**

19 **(On record at 2:01 p.m.)**

20 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Let's go ahead and go on
21 record. At this moment, is there anybody that
22 wishes to speak? Anyone who hasn't spoken yet?

23 Okay. Go ahead.

24 **SPEAKER:** Okay. I was just making sure I
25 could say it in three minutes or less. Tell me when

1 you're ready.

2 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Are you ready?

3 **MANDI MITCHELL:** Yes, sir. Good

4 afternoon. Mandi Mitchell.

5 As president and CEO of the Lafayette
6 Economic Development Authority and 2023 chair of the
7 Regional Economic Alliance of Louisiana, I am here
8 today in support of the State of Louisiana's request
9 for primacy of Class VI wells under the underground
10 injection control program.

11 Since the discovery of oil in Louisiana,
12 the Lafayette region has been a nexus of oil and gas
13 support services. With the establishment of Oil
14 Center in the fifties, Lafayette's oil and gas
15 industry continued to grow, leading to new
16 innovations in drilling, production, communications,
17 and more, throughout the seventies and eighties.
18 Since then, LEDA has played a leading role in the
19 efforts to diversify the Lafayette economy, while
20 remaining committed to supporting local oilfield
21 services companies that weathered difficult times
22 and chose to remain in the community.

23 Fast-forward to today, and industry
24 leaders in our community have embraced the energy
25 evolution, as is evident by the level of interest in

1 new and existing technologies that will lead to
2 emissions reductions. And those of us in the
3 economic development community are eager to support
4 homegrown companies' efforts to leverage their
5 highly transferable knowledge and skills to pivot or
6 expand their portfolios to bridge technologies such
7 as carbon capture, and renewable energy activities
8 such as hydrogen, wind, solar, and geothermal and
9 more.

10 As a professional economic developer, I am
11 personally committed to enhancing equitable access
12 to economic opportunity in my community and in this
13 state. Of significant importance to Louisiana
14 economic developers are equity and fairness in the
15 ability to access quality jobs, and there to be
16 opportunities in each of Louisiana's major
17 industries. And we are heartened to know that
18 Louisiana's oil and gas industry leaders affirm
19 their support of the state and the EPA in upholding
20 commitments made in Louisiana's application to
21 ensure inclusive community engagement during the
22 permitting process, as well as equitable deployment
23 of CCUS projects, including making best efforts to
24 engage Louisiana-based companies and DBEs.

25 For decades, the Louisiana DNR has

1 effectively administered several regulatory programs
2 to which the EPA has delegated to their authority.
3 Given this prior experience in permitting,
4 compliance and enforcement, and the passage of Act
5 378 this past session, enhancing public notice and
6 environmental studies for Class VI well permitting,
7 our state has demonstrated its competency through
8 DNR and commitment to responsibly overseeing
9 implementation of carbon capture projects.

10 This is a tremendously pivotal time for
11 the State of Louisiana, and our state has embraced
12 its role in this new frontier to a cleaner, self-
13 sustaining energy environment for our country, and
14 the EPA's decision on this request will impact our
15 ability to grow in the right direction --

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

17 **MANDI MITCHELL:** -- both economically and
18 environmentally. Thank you.

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

20 Is there anybody in the crowd that wishes
21 to speak?

22 Sir? Go ahead. Please state your full
23 name for the record.

24 **JERRY LAYNE:** Thank you for the
25 opportunity to speak today. My name is Jerry Layne.

1 That last name is L-A-Y-N-E.

2 I'm 81 years old. I've been a resident of
3 Louisiana for 55 years. But beyond that, I've been
4 in the process industry for 65 years, including 20
5 in international work and 15 in community college
6 education. One of the proudest moments of my life
7 was the fact that I have about 2,000 graduates from
8 that process technology program at the community
9 college, um, where these people go out making six
10 figures and above incomes. And what I see today, a
11 number of them, you know, beginning to lose their
12 jobs because of various regulatory issues that, in
13 my mind, some that don't have to be.

14 I once had a chart in my office that
15 showed how -- right at the center of the circular
16 chart was oil, gas, and coal. And from that,
17 literally thousands of derivatives of those things
18 that have become all the, um, modern conveniences of
19 today's life. And, um, without oil and gas, I think
20 you will see so much of those disappear.

21 As I said, I'm very proud of the fact that
22 I had those 2,000 graduates that we put through
23 school, and I do urge y'all to, um, give, um,
24 approval to the Class VI primacy.

25 Thank you.

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

2 Anyone else wishing to speak right now?

3 Okay. So, it looks like we don't have any
4 speakers at the moment. You are more than welcome
5 to stay in the room. Once we get a speaker, we will
6 get back in session. Thank you.

7 **(Off record at 2:07 p.m.)**

8 **(On record at 2:40 p.m.)**

9 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Please spell out your
10 name, and remember that you have three minutes.
11 Okay?

12 **JOHN SWISHER:** Yeah. John Swisher. J-O-H-
13 N S-W-I-S-H-E-R.

14 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. Are you ready?

15 **JOHN SWISHER:** Yes, I am.

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

17 **JOHN SWISHER:** I'm in the automotive
18 (indiscernible) industry. I'm a part-time actor and
19 musician. Also a part-time radio talk show host.
20 WGSO 990 AM New Orleans, Louisiana.

21 Louisiana needs oil and gas. Plus it's
22 the number one -- one of the number one employers in
23 the State of Louisiana. My industry and business is
24 dependent upon oil and gas, because if people don't
25 have gasoline, their car's not going to -- I mean,

1 that's -- people run their cars off of gasoline and
2 oil, and my business depends on that, in automotive
3 maintenance. And I support carbon capture because
4 it creates plenty of high-paying jobs for Louisiana.

5 Please approve Louisiana's application for
6 Class VI primacy.

7 That's it.

8 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. Thank you very
9 much for your statement, sir.

10 **JOHN SWISHER:** Anytime.

11 **(Off record at 2:42 p.m.)**

12 **(On record at 3:04 p.m.)**

13 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Let's go back in session.

14 Sir, please state your name and spell it
15 out, your last name for us. And please note you
16 have three minutes, okay?

17 **BRIAN SNYDER:** Sure. Hi. My name is
18 Brian Snyder, S-N-Y-D-E-R. I'm an associate
19 professor of environmental sciences at LSU. I'm an
20 ecologist by training.

21 And so I'd like to start by expressing my
22 sympathy with the skeptics of CCS, people in the
23 environmental justice community, the tribes, and
24 people experiencing land loss on the coast. Those
25 people might hear claims of economic benefits from

1 CCS, and may be rightfully skeptical that -- that
2 means -- that doesn't mean much to them. Similar
3 claims over the past century certainly have not.

4 CCS is no one's first choice. It can be
5 energy-intensive and can have risks, albeit ones
6 that are relatively small compared to other
7 industrial activity. But it is the only way that we
8 can plausibly decarbonize our industrial sector. If
9 we don't, the effects of climate change will be far
10 worse than the dangers of CCS. And the effects of
11 climate change in Louisiana will be felt most
12 severely by people in poor EJ communities, among
13 tribal populations, and people experiencing land
14 loss on the coast. We simply cannot limit climate
15 change to less than dangerous levels without CCS.

16 I would also add that over 2 billion
17 gallons of waste are injected in the US every day
18 via Class I to Class V wells. Nearly all of those 2
19 billion gallons are more harmful to human health and
20 the environment than the CO2 that will be injected
21 under discussion here. If you had a choice between
22 picking one of those 2 billion gallons of waste at
23 random and dumping it out into this hearing room, or
24 dumping out a gallon of CO2, you would pick the CO2
25 every time. In fact, as we've been sitting here

1 talking, we are essentially doing that, dumping
2 gallons of CO2 into this room. And none of us have
3 noticed because CO2 is non-toxic.

4 In sum, we have a choice, in this country,
5 in general, and in Louisiana in particular. We can
6 either do something about our carbon emissions using
7 the only tools we have available, or we can do
8 nothing.

9 Thank you.

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

11 Are you here to make a statement?

12 **SPEAKER:** I am.

13 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Please come to the desk
14 and state your name for the record.

15 **SPEAKER:** Do you want me to spell it out
16 as well?

17 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Yes, please.

18 **CLAIRE DILL:** Hi. My name is Claire Dill,
19 D-I-L-L.

20 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Are you ready?

21 **CLAIRE DILL:** Yeah.

22 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. Go ahead and
23 start.

24 **CLAIRE DILL:** So I was born and raised in
25 Louisiana, and I recently graduated as a political

1 science major from LSU. As someone who loves her
2 home state and is also trying to start a career in
3 an unstable economy, the oil industry is the best
4 way to find and obtain a high-paying, reliable job
5 in Louisiana. I'm worried if carbon capture does
6 not receive primacy, the industry will leave the
7 state, which we cannot afford. And I'm urging you
8 to grant the Class VI primacy for Louisiana.

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

10 **(Off record at 3:07 p.m.)**

11 **(On record at 3:33 p.m.)**

12 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Good afternoon, sir. Are
13 you here to make a statement?

14 **SPEAKER:** Yes, I am.

15 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Please come to the table,
16 sir. Please spell your name for the record and note
17 that you have three minutes. Okay?

18 **GREG BOWSER:** Sure. Thank you. My name
19 is Greg Bowser, with the Louisiana Chemical
20 Association. I'm here in support of primacy for the
21 State of Louisiana. I believe that the state is
22 best suited to make permit decisions, and I hope
23 that the EPA will see the same.

24 There are already dozens of carbon
25 projects that are existing across the United States.

1 The State of Louisiana is a prime spot to utilize
2 the technology, due to the geographic and skilled
3 workforce that we have, and the existing
4 infrastructure. Louisiana has a chance, I believe,
5 to be a leader in carbon capture and sequestration,
6 and these projects will of course bring jobs and
7 other revenue to the state.

8 If the EPA grants primacy of these Class
9 VI wells, this means that the State of Louisiana has
10 the authority to permit directly. This will help
11 streamline the process and ensure that all state
12 protocols are being followed. It will also give
13 those who object to a permit the opportunity to go
14 directly to a local official to make that objection.
15 Certainly hope that the EPA will find itself -- find
16 within its authority to grant the State of Louisiana
17 primacy over regulating these type of wells.

18 And with that, I would like to close and
19 just say that the members I represent, we're all
20 committed to reducing our carbon footprint by the
21 year, like everyone else, by the year 2050. This is
22 simply a mechanism by which to let us do that, and
23 it's one that's been done safely and one that can be
24 achieved very easily in Louisiana, so we would hope
25 that the State of Louisiana will get primacy from

1 the EPA in order to make those decisions.

2 Thank you very much.

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

4 **(Off record at 3:35 p.m.)**

5 **(On record at 4:58 p.m.)**

6 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** It's close to 5 o'clock.

7 So we're going to go ahead and close this session. I
8 want to thank you, all of you, for coming and
9 staying. So we'll see you perhaps on the next
10 session that we'll start at 6 o'clock, okay? Okay.
11 Bye-bye.

12 **(Off record at 4:58 p.m.)**

13 **(On record at 5:57 p.m.)**

14 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Let's go ahead and go
15 back on the record. Okay. This hearing is now in
16 session.

17 Sir, I'm going to ask you to please state
18 your name and -- yeah, you can sit right there.
19 State your name and spell your last name for the
20 record. And then also keep in mind, everybody, that
21 you have three minutes for -- to make your
22 statement. Okay?

23 **SPEAKER:** Yes.

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

25 **BRETT MELANCON:** Brett Melancon, M-E-L-A-

1 N-C-O-N.

2 I would like to share the importance of
3 gas and oil in Louisiana. I'm a state-licensed
4 mechanical contractor of 35 years here in Louisiana.
5 We operate on oil and gas. That's what we do. Our
6 country -- our state, Shell Oil, Exxon Oil, that's
7 what we do. We have oil and gas here. If we don't
8 have that industry, we don't have anything.
9 Everything in our state flows from oil and gas. And
10 I just don't understand any other alternative from
11 that. We don't -- we're not chicken farmers here.
12 We're gas and oil people. So between us and Texas,
13 we feel like everything is here. So I just would
14 like to state that.

15 I'm building a large project off the
16 interstate right now, which is a new \$20 million
17 project, and we are depending on energy oil and gas
18 here. It's going to be a large RV park, which is
19 going to be for tourists, a big tourist attraction,
20 220 spots. Everything on the lakes. So it's going
21 to be a large project here in Louisiana. And we're
22 dependent on the oil and gas. A lot of workers will
23 stay there, live there, use it for temporary and
24 permanent residence.

25 Thank you.

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

2 Do we have an Edward Caswell? Edith
3 Carlin?

4 **EDITH CARLIN:** Good evening. My name is
5 Edith Carlin, C-A-R-L-I-N.

6 I am a wife and a mother, and a resident
7 of Louisiana. I actually came over here to go to
8 school. I grew up in northwest Florida. I came
9 from a lower middle-class family where we did a lot
10 of things outside; camping, hiking, swimming,
11 boating. My daddy was a former scout, Boy Scout, so
12 we had to leave every place we went better than we
13 found it. As a kid, we'd have to clean up the beach
14 or the riverbank, wherever we went before we could
15 have fun. And of course, we had to leave it in a
16 pristine condition before we left, so that -- I
17 didn't really like it as a kid, but as I grew up, it
18 really instilled in me a deep appreciation for our
19 environment. And I have a desire today as an adult
20 to keep our environment clean and safe for my
21 children and hopefully one day my grandchildren.

22 I moved from Florida to Louisiana. I had
23 a family member that lived here that had a really
24 good-paying job in the petrochemical plant, and
25 because of that, they were able to support me as I

1 went to LSU. I graduated, the first college
2 graduate from my family, as a petroleum engineer.
3 Today I work as a project manager and an engineer in
4 the petrochemical industry. In fact, I left work
5 early today so that I could come and lend my support
6 to the oil and gas industry.

7 And as you know, that oil industry
8 provides the feedstock for the petrochemical
9 industry, which is our major industry here in
10 Louisiana. I was thinking today, there's a big push
11 to buy natural products and environmentally safe
12 products, which I'm all for. But how many of those
13 products come in hydrocarbon-based containers, or
14 needed hydrocarbons to produce them? We couldn't
15 have our cool phone cases, or our sports jerseys, or
16 even acrylic nails without the production of
17 hydrocarbons. Many small businesses in our state,
18 minority and women-owned, are successful because of
19 their ties to the hydrocarbon industry. I wonder
20 how many single mothers are able to support their
21 children and raise them in nice, safe homes in good
22 neighborhoods because of the economic opportunities
23 due to the hydrocarbon industry in Louisiana.

24 You know, I don't know what would happen
25 if Louisiana was not able to safely produce

1 hydrocarbons in our state. I think that we would
2 have a very bleak future, and, um, I -- I hate to
3 think that that would happen.

4 So I just want to ask you today, you know,
5 we appreciate the -- your committee and that you
6 would approve the permit for the state primacy in
7 Louisiana.

8 Thank you.

9 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you. David
10 Erickson? Grace Treffinger? I only have the first
11 name next: Eva? Paige Powell. Brian Calvin.
12 Nanette Bordelon. Demetrius Fruga. Jean Duncan.
13 Mary Jane Littleton. Rashida Ferdinand. Caleb
14 Holmes. Michael Dauphin. Tiffany Veal.

15 **TIFFANY VEAL:** Good evening. My name is
16 Tiffany Veal. V as in Victor, E-A-L.

17 I am a lifelong resident of Louisiana. I
18 currently work for a construction company as a
19 contractor to the different plants in the area. So
20 I've completed construction jobs, turnarounds,
21 maintenance projects, all for different plants as
22 far as the oil and gas industry and the chemical
23 industry. And I can tell you that it is very
24 important for the oil and gas industry to remain in
25 Louisiana because it's a very -- it's financially

1 stable for the employees that work there. If you
2 look, it's a lot of employees in Louisiana that's
3 employed with -- either it's directly with the
4 plant, or if it's through a contractor or
5 subcontractor, they are affiliated with the plant
6 and is -- it makes it financially stable for
7 families to be supported, as well as it's a great
8 opportunity to advance and to learn about the
9 industry.

10 As far as from a consumer standpoint, it's
11 very important because of the different products
12 that's produced at the plants. As far as oil and
13 gas, of course we use oil and gas for
14 transportation, vehicles, and like the -- obvious,
15 but we also produce those different products that
16 make plastics. Like the current chemical plant that
17 I'm currently affiliated with, we use the products
18 -- we do the maintenance as far as -- I work in
19 administrative roles, so I bill the plant for our
20 services. But they use mechanical engineering,
21 chemical engineering, different aspects of it,
22 different crafts, like welders, pipefitters --
23 they're all employed there. But they have to keep
24 the machines running, so therefore, the operators
25 and the engineers with the particular plant, can

1 produce products. The products are used for
2 everyday use for consumers, such as plastics -- it's
3 from toiletries, or diapers, or things like those
4 sorts, that they use those particular products in
5 order to produce them. So it's good for everyday use
6 as well. There are a lot of things you might not be
7 aware of that you use that comes from establishing
8 the products from the plants.

9 So it's very important to have that
10 consistency as far as the financial stability with
11 providing for yourselves and your families, as well
12 as the consumers to be able to continue to buy
13 products to support their families. So I would
14 definitely look forward to the oil and gas industry
15 to remain and to remain profitable in Louisiana.

16 Thank you.

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

18 Samuel Remchuk? John Carlin.

19 **JOHN CARLIN:** Thank you.

20 Gentlemen, I worked in Pittsburgh the last
21 25 years of my career in aviation. I dealt with the
22 EPA there with regards to de-icing. And prior to
23 that, I worked with the EPA, federal EPA in Florida
24 -- in Florida due to a fuel spill that occurred down
25 there. So I'm familiar with what you gentlemen do.

1 I would like to say -- I've lived down
2 here now for five years. I absolutely believe that
3 Louisiana EPA can take care of its own carbon
4 capture. My own belief is -- I don't like carbon
5 capture, period. But if we're going to have to do
6 it, then I think we can do it down here. Carbon in
7 the atmosphere has increased by .01 percent. That's
8 one hundredth of a percent, in the last 30 years.
9 That is a very small thing. I think we went from
10 210 PPM to 450 or something. I don't remember the
11 exact numbers.

12 But I don't believe it's an issue that we
13 should all run around crying Chicken Little. I
14 don't think the sky is falling. And I don't think
15 global warming is a great catastrophe. The tundra
16 in Alaska has melted before, as you well know, years
17 ago. Greenland used to be green, and they grew
18 crops up there when it was a lot hotter years ago.
19 Back then -- I think it was around the 1500s, the
20 carbon in the atmosphere was running about four to
21 6,000 PPM, and civilization thrived.

22 So here we are with this minuscule amount
23 of PPM here, and now we're doing carbon capture. If
24 you capture too much carbon, the plants won't grow,
25 the trees won't be able to grow. Human beings

1 thrive on carbon dioxide, plus, of course, O₂. We
2 breathe in 21 percent, breathe out 50 percent oxygen
3 and some carbon dioxide.

4 Anyway, I've been looking at the subject
5 now for 20-something years. And I think that, if
6 you're going to require capture -- I've been a vice
7 president to two different companies. I think if
8 you're going to do carbon capture, we can do it here
9 in Louisiana as well as anyone. We have a lot of
10 oil and gas. It is important to the economy. Very
11 important to the economy, as is plastics and other
12 derivatives. Even if you go to all electric
13 vehicles in the next -- by 2035, you're still going
14 to need oil, because cars need oil regardless of
15 what they are. Oil and grease. So we would
16 appreciate it.

17 Thank you.

18 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Thank you, Mr. Carlin.

19 Okay. We've called everybody on the list.
20 We're going to go ahead and go back to the list
21 again. It looks like we had a couple of people that
22 just came in. So we're going to go back to the
23 list. If anybody else comes -- if nobody from the
24 list comes to speak, then I'm just going to open it
25 to the floor if anybody else wants to give a

1 statement. Okay?

2 So do we have Edward Caswell? David
3 Erickson? Grace Treffinger. Eva. Paige Powell.
4 Bria Calvin.

5 Go ahead.

6 **BRIA CALVIN:** Do I need to say my name and
7 spell it?

8 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Yes, you can spell it for
9 us, please. And if you can come forward, move both
10 the mikes to you. Thank you.

11 **BRIA CALVIN:** Is that better?

12 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Much better.

13 **BRIA CALVIN:** Great. B-R-I-A C-A-L-V-I-N.

14 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** When you're ready.

15 **BRIA CALVIN:** Okay. Good evening, and
16 thank you to EPA and LDNR for hosting these
17 hearings, and an even bigger thank you and
18 acknowledgement to my fellow passionate and
19 tenacious Louisianians, those who have or will
20 testify, and to those whose words may not be heard
21 but their presence is always felt.

22 I am Bria Marilyn Calvin, a native New
23 Orleanian, a proud product of the New Orleans Public
24 School System, a former EPA legal intern, an HBCU-
25 educated environmental lawyer, that's soon to be

1 attorney, and currently, privileged to be the state
2 manager of Louisiana Political Affairs for the
3 Environmental Defense Fund.

4 My great-grandmother, a community leader
5 and lifelong New Orleanian also, taught me, no
6 matter what your circumstances are, never give up.
7 The people of Louisiana, particularly the
8 overburdened and historically disenfranchised
9 communities, should not have to continuously fight
10 and "never give up" for infinite generations just to
11 have access to equitable living standards and to
12 help the environment.

13 We are deeply concerned that LDNR is not
14 prepared to engage in good faith with communities in
15 the way stated in the MOA and the primacy
16 application, due to the embedded history of
17 environmental justice issues and environmental
18 racism in this state, and the agency's near silence
19 on its public trustee responsibilities mandated by
20 the Louisiana Constitution.

21 LDNR has been very clear that they do not
22 have the authority to deny a Class VI permit based
23 on an EJ review limited to a project's area of
24 review, or AOR. However, they have neglected to
25 state their obligation to deny permit applications

1 that would violate the public trust doctrine. In
2 response to previous public comments about impacts
3 outside the AOR, LDNR chose either to not address
4 comments, or said surface facilities not associated
5 with injection operations, pipelines, and facilities
6 in other states are beyond the regulatory scope of
7 the UIC program. The agency did not explain that
8 impacts outside the AOR are evaluated via the SOS or
9 IT questions. However, LDNR is obviously aware of
10 this through their 2019 denial of a permit
11 application to construct and operate an injection
12 well. Though this may be the only example, we
13 noticed that this application received many specific
14 comments, whereas numerous other applications, with
15 fewer and more general comments, were just easily
16 approved. This might suggest that LDNR will only
17 satisfy the agency's public trustee responsibilities
18 to an extent proportional to the amount and
19 specificity of comments received.

20 Furthermore, with LDNR's plans to use
21 third-party contractors to assess EJ reviews, they
22 have yet to provide guidance or criteria to assess
23 the reviews, and have not addressed whether the
24 agency expects to build capacity to complete these
25 analyses in-house. Moreover, we are also concerned

1 about operator/contractor/agency conflict of
2 interest, particularly in respect to the possibility
3 of a contractor preparing an EJ review for an
4 applicant and the foreseeability of them being hired
5 by the agency to assess.

6 Considering the significance of the
7 precedent that could be set in this state, DNR has
8 not shown that it fully understands and implements
9 state law and the good faith to benefit the people
10 of this state. You cannot take the people out of
11 policy.

12 Based on these concerns, EPA should
13 consider the state's application incomplete and deny
14 granting primacy.

15 Thank you.

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

17 Nanette Bordelon. Demetrius Fruga. Jean
18 Duncan. Mary Jane Littleton. Rashida Ferdinand.
19 Caleb Holmes. Michael Dauphin. And Samuel Remchuk.

20 Okay. Is there anybody else in the crowd
21 that wants to speak?

22 Okay. Go ahead, sir.

23 **CAREY CARLIN:** My name is Carey Carlin.

24 I'm a retired former employee of a large
25 petrochemical plant in Plaquemine. Thirty five

1 years. I enjoyed my employment there. I saw the
2 changes over the years, from when I first started in
3 the late seventies, to when I retired, were massive.
4 But this -- this job -- we're talking about jobs.
5 We're talking about real things. Money. Employment.
6 Jobs. Good-paying jobs. Because so many people are
7 leaving Louisiana for different reasons. But this
8 -- this job, when I graduated from high school, I
9 had no idea I would make the money that I ended up
10 making. You know, it was just great, for me and my
11 family. I was able to raise four children, put them
12 through school, provide a good home, a good family
13 environment for them. And it was a blessing,
14 because of the petrochemical industry. I wouldn't
15 have made the money I made anywhere else.

16 Also, I -- you know, I just support this.
17 I support the carbon capture. I don't think it's
18 going to be bubbling up in anybody's backyard
19 anytime soon, or ever. But many -- many years ago I
20 was -- put in for a job with Saudi Petro. And I had
21 to -- I was flown to Houston to interview for this
22 job. It was as a supervisor in an ethylene plant
23 there. And I saw at that time the way that their --
24 they had no environmental protection agency. They
25 would literally dump stuff in the sand, burned

1 everything off. The waste products that we capture
2 and make other products with, they literally just
3 burned or dumped. And so if we don't -- if the
4 United States, under the guidance of the EPA, if we
5 don't continue to work under these regulations,
6 somebody else will do it. They're going to -- the
7 petrochemical industry is going to thrive somewhere
8 else. And it'll be more harmful for the
9 environmental anywhere else that it goes. Saudi
10 Arabia, Russia, China. So we need the industry
11 here. It's been great for Louisiana. Like it's been
12 said before, for Louisiana to prosper, the
13 petrochemical industry has to prosper.

14 So I've just been -- it was just a great
15 job. The best job I ever had. And I just think
16 things are getting better and better. This is not
17 the late 1800s, early 1900s, the Wild West of oil.
18 We have so many regulations now that have made
19 things so much better -- just the environment at
20 that plant got better and better every year.

21 So I thank you for these hearings, I thank
22 you for the job you're doing, I thank you for having
23 to sit through all these statements. But I
24 appreciate it, and thank you very much.

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

1 sir.

2 **YESENIA REBOLLAR:** My name is Yesenia
3 Rebollar. First name Y-E-S-E-N-I-A, last name R-E-
4 B-O-L-L-A-R.

5 I have been a resident of Louisiana since
6 2018. I have been an inhabitant of the earth for
7 forty years. But above all else, I am a person who
8 believes in choice. I have not driven a vehicle in
9 five years. I am an eco-ethical consumer. I
10 understand the importance of personal action. As
11 much as I believe in choice, I emphasize those who
12 have the power to administer action. I recognize
13 that carbon capture is a path to a more eco-friendly
14 state. I ask each individual to consider a future
15 with the State of Louisiana carrying that choice.
16 Put that power into the hands of the State of
17 Louisiana and those who are educated in these
18 matters. I spend 60 percent of my time outdoors.
19 Not indoors. And I can tell, from the emissions in
20 the air, with very little education, when the air
21 quality is good or bad. I think that the people who
22 have the power to administer action, should do so
23 with proper decisions.

24 Thank you.

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

1 Anybody else who wants to give a
2 statement?

3 **FRANCIS RHODES:** Hi. I'm Francis Rhodes,
4 R-H-O-D-E-S.

5 Good evening. I am a chemical engineering
6 student at Louisiana Tech University. I am from
7 Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and my mom is an oil and gas
8 lobbyist. Because of this, I've been around oil and
9 gas my entire life. I've grown up in Louisiana and
10 I've grown to love the state, and I plan on staying
11 here after I graduate from college. I've seen the
12 effects of the oil and gas industry throughout the
13 years, and have seen how crucial it is to invest in
14 this industry. As a chemical engineering student,
15 this could possibly grant me positive opportunities
16 in my future. This means jobs, my family in the
17 future, and all that good stuff.

18 So, in conclusion, I urge you to approve
19 primacy in Louisiana, and I thank you for your time.

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

21 Is there anybody else who wants to give a
22 statement?

23 **THERESA MARINO:** Good evening. My name is
24 Theresa Marino. I'm 63. I haven't lived here all
25 my life; however, I grew up in the military. I've

1 lived here a total of probably 35 years. My
2 grandfather lived here, and he worked for Exxon for
3 47 years. He had 13 children. And of that, all of
4 his sons worked for the petrochemical industry. I've
5 actually also noticed myself -- I remember the
6 fliers that used to go off all the time. And I
7 recently noticed how they're not there anymore. I
8 remember how the sky used to be awful. And it's not
9 there anymore because of EPA and the work that y'all
10 have done.

11 From what I've read online about
12 emissions, the capture, this project, everything is
13 positive. It's a trillion-dollar industry. It is
14 going to put a lot of people to work, and Louisiana
15 needs that. We need to thrive to bring other
16 industry into the state. LSU needs thriving
17 Louisiana to bring athletes to the state that want
18 to live here and go to school and possibly stay
19 here. I know we've had, um -- we've had such
20 opposition against oil and gas. That's been
21 Louisiana. That is what Louisiana is, is oil and
22 gas. They've -- we have enough -- EPA has done
23 great. I had friends that worked in EPA. I learned
24 a lot about EPA. This -- Louisiana needs to be the
25 one to decide what they do. Not the federal

1 government. Federal government is there to watch
2 over us, help us, but not run Louisiana. Louisiana
3 has capable citizens, representatives, to do what
4 they need to do for Louisiana. We love our state.
5 I have grandchildren that are going to grow up here
6 after I'm gone. And I want them to have what
7 Louisiana is, which is a wonderful state. We have
8 the best food. We have the best times. We have the
9 best people. And we work for it. And I think y'all
10 should please consider, and keep it with Louisiana.

11 Thank you.

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

13 Anybody else at this moment?

14 Okay. So it looks like we ran out of
15 speakers, so what we're going to do is we're just
16 going to wait until other speakers come up so we can
17 go back on the record. You're more than welcome to
18 stay. If you want to leave, you can as well. But
19 for now, since we don't have any speakers, we'll
20 just wait for a while. Okay? Thank you.

21 **(Off record at 6:24 p.m.)**

22 **(On record at 6:26 p.m.)**

23 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Are you providing a
24 statement, sir?

25 Okay. Can you please give your full name

1 and spell your last name for us.

2 **CALEB HOLMES:** Sure. Caleb Holmes. Last
3 name H-O-L-M-E-S.

4 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Go ahead, Mr. Holmes.

5 **CALEB HOLMES:** All right. Over the past
6 few weeks we have witnessed near record
7 temperatures, combined with the oppressive Louisiana
8 humidity. We are witnessing the degradation of our
9 ecological heritage, as well as the destabilization
10 of our planet's very delicate climatic balance. We
11 cannot allow any more harm to be done to Louisiana,
12 our air, our land, our water, and more important,
13 our people. We need to invest in real solutions
14 like transit, renewable energy, and other carbon-
15 reducing practices.

16 And just for the record, carbon capture
17 does not reduce carbon. This unproven, risky, and
18 unsafe excuse of a technology is big industry's way
19 of once again skirting its responsibility. In
20 Louisiana, we are taught to take responsibility for
21 our actions and make good on them, not skirt around
22 them. And it seems that industry is simply too
23 entitled to do this. They constantly shrug off the
24 responsibility for the air, water, and land and the
25 well-being of our people, and we must firmly and

1 confidently say that we cannot allow the EPA to
2 grant primacy to a state agency that does not have
3 the staff, ability, or even the desire, to protect
4 the most vulnerable communities. Carbon capture is
5 a scam. Primacy would be detrimental. And big
6 industry must finally own up to its record of
7 destroying environments and lives.

8 We must not grant primacy to Louisiana's
9 Department of Natural Resources because they truly
10 do not care about the state, the environment, or the
11 people, in its current form.

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

13 Anybody else here to give a statement?

14 **ASHLEY AGE:** Ashley Age. Last name A-G-E.

15 The people of Louisiana love many things.
16 We love football, crawfish, and our heritage. But
17 big oil companies do not love Louisiana. Communities
18 along the Gulf Coast are on the front lines of the
19 climate diaster. The predominantly black, Latino,
20 indigenous, and low-income communities along the
21 Texas and Louisiana coasts already live and work
22 near polluting oil and gas pipelines, plants, and
23 terminals every day. Residents are faced with higher
24 risk of respiratory disease and cancers from
25 industrial air pollutants. These communities are

1 oftentimes the hardest hit by devastating storms
2 that hit the region each year because of the erosion
3 of coastal wetlands due to the effects of a warming
4 planet. This is the same industry that, with the
5 help of the DNR, have killed and harmed local
6 wildlife, including our wonderful state bird, the
7 brown pelican.

8 The Louisiana Department of Natural
9 Resources will not protect Louisiana from being cut
10 apart, fracked, and from the industries that raid
11 our state. We cannot allow the EPA to grant primacy
12 to Louisiana DNR. They have shown no ability, and
13 time and time again, to abdicate their
14 responsibilities in protecting and promoting the
15 natural resources of Louisiana for the people. Do
16 not grant primacy to Louisiana's DNR.

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

18 Anybody else at this time?

19 Okay. We're going to go off the record
20 until we get our next speaker. Thank you.

21 **(Off record at 6:31 p.m.)**

22 **(On record at 6:38 p.m.)**

23 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Can we go back on the
24 record?

25 Okay, sir. You're here to give a

1 statement?

2 **SPEAKER:** Yes, please.

3 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay. Could you please
4 give us your name, spell out your last name for us,
5 and remember you have three minutes for your
6 statement. Okay?

7 **PARRY MATT THOMAS:** Yes. My name is Parry
8 Matt Thomas. It's P-A-R-R-Y M-A-T-T T-H-O-M-A-S.

9 **MR. ARMENDARIZ:** Okay, sir. Are you
10 ready?

11 **PARRY MATT THOMAS:** My name is Parry Matt
12 Thomas, and I have lived in Louisiana for 37 years.
13 I worked as our company's Entergy representative to
14 upgrade the primary seals for their nuclear
15 reactors.

16 I was raised around the country on
17 military bases. My father was a nuclear commander.
18 I know that energy independence is critical to our
19 economy, and also our national security. I believe
20 that carbon capture is a great way to help reduce
21 greenhouse emissions and help our environment. We
22 need to do something positive to protect our world
23 environmentally. I believe oil and gas provide
24 energy domestically, it provides jobs and investment
25 in our region. I am currently a candidate for the

1 Louisiana House of Representatives, and I appreciate
2 the community support the oil and gas industry has
3 given over the years.

4 I urge the EPA to approve primacy for
5 Louisiana to manage the carbon capture permitting
6 process.

7 Thank you very much.

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

9 Okay. Off the record.

10 **(Off record at 6:40 p.m.)**

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

12 **MR. JOHNSON:** Thank you for attending day
13 two of the EPA Class VI Primacy Hearing for LDNR. We
14 had no speakers the last hour. We will resume
15 tomorrow for day three at 9 a.m. in the same room.
16 And tomorrow will be our final day of the face-to-
17 face hearing for Class VI primacy for LDNR.

18 Thanks for attending.

19 **(Concluded at 7:57 p.m.)**

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This certification is valid only for a transcript accompanied by my original signature and original required seal on this page.

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Lisa M. Nealy

LISA M. NEALY, RPR, CCR
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