

**Statement of Eugene M. Trisko on behalf of the  
United Mine Workers of America, AFL-CIO  
Before the  
Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
July 10, 2008  
HR 6258, "Carbon Capture and Storage Early Deployment Act"**

Chairman Boucher, Ranking Member Upton and distinguished members of the Subcommittee:

I am pleased to be here today to testify on behalf of the United Mine Workers of America to support enactment of HR 6258. This bill provides an essential foundation for national climate change legislation by establishing a secure, non-budget source of financing for demonstrating the technical feasibility of carbon capture and storage technologies. CCS technologies are the only means for assuring that domestic coal can continue to supply the majority of our electric generating needs in a carbon-constrained environment.

The UMWA supports national climate change legislation. The UMWA is mindful, however, that imprudent climate change legislation potentially represents the greatest threat to its membership and to the continued use of coal

More than one-half of our nation's electricity is generated by coal, principally in large baseload power plants. Intermittent renewables such as wind

cannot replace baseload coal, and usually are backed up with natural gas. At the margin, our gas supplies are imported from Canada and from unstable foreign markets in the form of LNG.

HR 6258 represents a major step forward in advancing the technologies that will allow coal to be consumed in a carbon constrained environment. It will help us, once and for all, to put to rest the myth of “dirty coal.”

In January 2008, U.S. EPA’s Advanced Coal Technology Work Group, representing a broad array of industry, state and environmental stakeholders, including the UMWA, unanimously recommended that Congress immediately enact legislation to create an Early Deployment Fund to defray the additional costs and risks of CCS technologies. This recommendation was not tied to, or in any manner contingent upon, enactment of broader climate change legislation. The Work Group recommended raising approximately \$1 billion annually through non-budget mechanisms such as temporary fees on fossil-fueled electricity.

HR 6258 translates these recommendations to reality. It calls for the creation of an industry-operated Carbon Storage Research Corporation to assess modest fees on electricity produced from coal, oil and gas, reflecting the relative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of each fuel type. In short, it employs the polluter-pays principle.

The bill directs that projects to be supported should be geographically

diverse, using a variety of coal and other fossil fuels, and employing carbon capture technologies that could be used on new or existing power plants.

HR 6258 also provides for potential support to U.S. DOE and related governmental and academic programs. The UMWA envisions an active working partnership among the Corporation, U.S. DOE and its national labs and other research entities, collectively supporting major projects that have the greatest promise of demonstrating the technical and economic feasibility of CCS.

The U.S. must take the lead in establishing the technical viability of CCS technologies for use both here and abroad. The world's ability to stabilize future global carbon dioxide concentrations depends upon the willingness of major developing economies like India and China to accept meaningful commitments to reduce their future rate of emissions. Our leadership in CCS technologies is critical to the world's ability to use coal in an environmentally responsible manner.

As the EPA Work Group recognized, we cannot depend entirely upon the appropriations process to deliver the magnitude of financial support needed to commercialize CCS technologies. By providing a more stable form of long-term support, this bill can create the bases for independent private financing of coal-based energy technologies that otherwise might never get off the drawing board.

Mr. Chairman, the UMWA conveys its sincere appreciation for the leadership that you have taken in moving this bill forward to attract a broad bipartisan basis of support. The union stands ready to do whatever it can to help make this program a reality.

Thank you.