

**Opening Statement of Republican Leader David B. McKinley
Environment and Climate Change Hearing on
“The Fiscal Year 2020 Environmental Protection Agency”
April 29, 2021**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and welcome administrator Regan. We agree the world needs to reduce its carbon emissions but according to experts, reaching net-zero emissions will be impossible without carbon capture.

Now, the president has repeatedly pledged to decarbonize the power sector by 2035 and democrats in congress have taken a more aggressive approach. They want to reduce power sector emissions by 80% by 2030

So let's look at what will need to happen for a power plant to meet that goal: carbon capture technology must become commercially viable; the new source review program must be reformed; and the u.s. will need to develop a pipeline system to dispose of the captured carbon

Utility companies have found that it takes 7 to 8 years to get a new source review permit, and then perform the engineering, design, permitting, and installation of

carbon capture on a unit. So, if utilities must comply with the democrats' 2030 goal, they will have to start this process immediately but its widely recognized that today's carbon capture technology is not commercially viable. Its incapable of capturing 80% of our carbon emissions, but let's assume that the technology works in the next 12 months. And can capture 80% of the carbon emitted.

Utilities will still need a new source review permit to upgrade their units, yet the new source review program lacks certainty and predictability when was the last time a utility got a new source review permit to make a major modification to? They're not, its an unreliable process.

According to GAO, the EPA reviewed 831 units, and 467 were found to have violated the new source review program after the upgrades had been made. That's not certainty – that's insanity. This can cause hundreds of millions of dollars in additional costs.

So what our utilities need is certainty.....that is why new source review needs to be reformed. Yet there is nothing in the president's agenda discussing reforms to this program. Rather, it seems that this administration will have the same agenda

as president Obama's but on steroids

Now, let's assume carbon capture becomes commercially viable and a power plant can get final approval for a new source review permit, without any violations. The U.S. will need to develop a pipeline system to transport the captured carbon. But democrats have taken an adverse position to pipelines.....just look at: The keystone xl pipeline; The Atlantic coast pipeline; The Dakota access pipeline; Mountain valley pipeline; and Line 5 in Michigan

So why should we think environmentalists are going to let state and the administration approve more pipelines? If they tie these pipelines up in the courts like they have others our pipeline system won't be built by 2030. We will have accomplished nothing. All of these things must come together by 2030.

Developing and commercializing carbon capture technologies to reduce our emissions by 80%; Changes to the new source review program that allow utilities to install carbon capture; and Building out a system of carbon dioxide pipelines.

But in the quiet of the night EPA and this administration know this can't be done.

So why isn't this administration just honest with the American public? This is nothing but a politically driven agenda aimed at ending the use of coal and natural gas in this country. And coal miners and gas workers around the country will suffer by losing their homes, jobs and livelihoods. This is simply a death knell to the hardworking coal miners and gas workers of America.