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CARBON CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS: Electricity generated from power plants burning coal and natural gas and numerous industrial activities, including natural gas processing; production of ethanol, fertilizer, hydrogen, and certain chemicals; refining; and manufacture of cement and steel, all emit carbon dioxide (CO_2) that could be captured, used, and stored to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS: There are substantial economic benefits from carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS or carbon capture) technology across a range of economic sectors, including extraction and mining, energy infrastructure, the manufacture of CO_2 capture system components; supply chains including raw materials and component parts; building pipelines to transport CO_2; monitoring storage long-term; and the creation of a new CO_2 commodity industry for use in enhanced oil recovery, bio-refining, and other products; and

WHEREAS: The electric power generation and fuel production industries employed 1.6 million people in 2015 including over 1 million in fossil fuel-based electrical generation and fossil fuel extraction and mining; and

WHEREAS: Deployment of carbon capture technology has the potential to catalyze domestic employment because the U.S. is a global leader in carbon capture technology and there may be opportunities to export our carbon capture technologies, products, and services around the world; and

WHEREAS: Bipartisan legislation has been previously introduced in Congress to reform and provide for additional tax credits for CCUS; and

WHEREAS: There are other legislative efforts to enhance carbon capture, including the use of master limited partnerships and private activity bonds; and

WHEREAS: In the President's proposed FY 2016 federal budget, an investment tax credit and a production tax credit to cover portions of investment in carbon capture projects, as well as innovative provisions such as tax credit refundability, were included; and

WHEREAS: It is beneficial that Congress and the Administration act in close partnership with State governments, recognizing that CO_2 can be a useful commodity; and

WHEREAS: There are a number of State policies that could complement federal incentives.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Ohio American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (Ohio AFL-CIO) convened at its 30th Biennial Convention in Cleveland supports States and groups of States developing financial and other policies that encourage the cost-effective use of carbon capture technology at power plants and industrial facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Ohio AFL-CIO urges Congress and the Administration to support legislation and budget measures that provide assistance to the development and deployment of cost-effective carbon capture technology.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That the Ohio AFL-CIO strongly urges Congress and the Administration to rapid action on this resolution to create high-quality jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Submitted by: United Mine Workers of America, AFL-CIO and the Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO.