

green scissors

Cutting Wasteful and Environmentally Harmful Spending

Secretary Ernest Moniz
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue Southwest
Washington, DC 20585

July 16, 2015

Dear Secretary Moniz,

The Green Scissors coalition applauds your recent decision to suspend federal support for the Hydrogen Energy California project (HECA) in Kern County, Calif. As a coalition of free-market, taxpayer, and environmental groups dedicated to eliminating wasteful and environmentally harmful government spending, we greet the decision as a resounding victory for both fiscal sanity and environmental protection.

The setbacks HECA has experienced add to the accumulated evidence that carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) is neither economically viable nor an answer to our environmental challenges; the project further demonstrates why the technology does not deserve public support. The HECA facility has already cost taxpayers \$153 million. Acting to mitigate costs by suspending \$250 million in additional funding is a strong step, but we urge you to go further by permanently ending federal support for the project.

After ending support for the FutureGen 2.0 facility in Meredosia, Ill., and now suspending support for HECA, it is past time for the Department of Energy to abandon its remaining commitments to this technology. This includes not only federal support for the Summit Power facility in Penwell, Texas—the last remaining recipient of stimulus CCS funding—but also the support for carbon capture and sequestration across all other Department of Energy programs.

Respectfully,

The Green Scissors Coalition

Friends of the Earth,
Taxpayers for Common Sense,
The R Street Institute