



# ST. CHARLES PARISH

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

MATTHEW JEWELL  
PARISH PRESIDENT

Stacey Dwyer  
Deputy Regional Administrator  
USEPA Region 6  
1201 Elm Street  
Suite 500  
Dallas, TX 75270-210

May 30, 2023

Dear Ms. Dwyer,

Louisiana's ability to establish primary enforcement responsibility (primacy) for Class VI injection wells is critical as Louisianans continue to decide the future of our state's oil and natural gas industries and the use of carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS) technology. I appreciate the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recognition of this fact, as the EPA has proposed to approve revisions to the Louisiana Safe Drinking Water Act's Underground Injection Control program, and I encourage the EPA to formally adopt this proposal and grant the state of Louisiana primacy for the permitting of new CCUS projects.

Granting Louisiana's request for primacy is a critical step to allow our state agencies, who possess the in-depth knowledge to make the best decisions about our state's oil and natural gas industry. It prevents distant policymakers in Washington from making choices that may not align with the best interests of our communities.

Unfortunately, federal policies often adopt a one-size-fits-all approach, disregarding the specific circumstances and requirements of individual states and localities. Consequentially, such decisions often generate frustration among those who are directly affected, including the people of Louisiana. For example, new electric vehicle (EV) standards set by the Department of Transportation promoting the use of EVs, without adequately addressing the lack of EV charging infrastructure in rural parts of Louisiana. This highlights the mismatch between the wants of federal policymakers and the actual needs of local communities.

In contrast, Louisiana's state agencies are more familiar with the specific circumstances and needs facing our communities. Additionally, our state and local elected leaders have intimate knowledge of the local issues better than federal bureaucracies and are therefore better equipped to represent the concerns of the communities on these important issues.

That is especially true when it comes to decisions that would affect Louisiana's oil and natural gas industry, which support jobs for nearly 350,000 hardworking Louisianans and contributes

substantial 23% of the state's annual GDP. Furthermore, our state has successfully managed one of the nation's most highly regulated industries to help provide energy to the people of Louisiana and the nation.

Ultimately, it is critical that the people of Louisiana are able to make decisions about our state without having to seek approval from government officials in Washington. It is for that reason that I urge the EPA to formally approve Louisiana's request for primacy for the permitting of new CCUS projects.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew L. Jewell  
Parish President  
St. Charles Parish