

Via direct upload.

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

19 February 2018

Dear Secretary

**Clean Energy Finance Corporation Amendment (Carbon Capture and Storage) Bill 2017:
Submission**

1. Background

- a. This submission is made as a private individual.
- b. I have worked for many years in the extractive and power industries and in the financing of both.
- c. I was a founder member of the Global Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Institute (under a former engagement).

2. Submission

- a. I object strongly to the proposed amendment.
- b. With the substantial learned scientific resources available to the Global CCS Institute and its well-resourced members strong arguments can be presented to justify CCS technically and geologically. There however can be no certainty that re-injected CO₂ will remain in situ in perpetuity.
- c. If permanent retention of sequestered gas was certain there would be no need for government to provide and retain the capacity to provide post-closure indemnity for injection projects.
- d. The risk of CO₂ leakage – in the context of the scale that sequestering is required to be effective is too dangerous to consider even if today's forecasting suggests the probability of leakage is low. Experience suggests that the only certainty with natural world modelling, in parallel with economic and financial forecasting is that it will be materially wrong at some time and in an unpredictable and catastrophic manner.
- e. The Clean Energy Finance Corporation by its very title is tasked to assist in the financing of Clean Energy. Terrestrial sequestering of carbon pollution from hydro-carbon production and consumption does not make dirty energy clean; it simply re-locates the collected and concentrated pollution. This statement holds true even whilst acknowledging that more efficient burning of hydro-carbons (Ultra Super Critical and beyond) can materially reduce the CO₂ footprint per unit of power generated, the facilitation of which is not necessarily beyond the current scope of the CEFC.
- f. There are more honest ways to fund CCS if that is the desire of our government. It should not be done via this proposed amendment of paragraph 62a.

I thank you for considering this submission.

Yours faithfully

Richard Horton