

# The Industrial Innovation Initiative

November 15, 2023

The Honorable Tom Carper  
Chair, Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
513 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito,

The Industrial Innovation Initiative, I<sup>3</sup>, commends Chairman Carper and the Committee for convening this hearing, ***Opportunities in Industrial Decarbonization: Delivering Benefits for the Economy and the Climate***. I<sup>3</sup> is an ambitious coalition of industry, labor, and non-governmental organizations working together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the industrial sector. We believe proper policy development and implementation, technology demonstration and adoption, and demand-side market development provide a realistic pathway to curb industrial emissions.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is *not* at odds with maintaining a vigorous industrial base. In fact, the two go hand in hand. The United States will need the steel, cement, chemicals, and other materials produced by American industry to manufacture the wind turbines, solar panels, electric vehicles, heat pumps, and other products required to decarbonize the economy and bolster American energy security. A strong industrial sector also provides millions of well-paying jobs, helping to sustain American families and communities.

Industry currently generates 24 percent of direct US greenhouse gas emissions. Factoring in electricity consumption increases this figure to 30 percent. Decarbonizing the industrial sector presents unique challenges, as a simple one-size-fits-all solution cannot address the diversity of sub-sectors, facilities, and technologies currently in use. Some solutions, such as using electricity generated by renewable sources in place of fossil fuels, are within reach. However, complete decarbonization will require a suite of technologies and innovative policies.

Thanks to the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, industrial decarbonization efforts have been bolstered. Provisions in these laws will accelerate production of clean hydrogen, expand the deployment of carbon capture and storage, and promote the development of a range of other technologies that will help industry curtail its emissions. I<sup>3</sup> members recognize the critical role that the incentives and funding contained in these landmark pieces of legislation will play for years to come.

Today's hearing demonstrates this Committee understands there is more work to be done. Expanding demand-side programs, removing barriers to building hydrogen and carbon dioxide pipelines, constructing long-distance electrical transmission are only some of the important tasks that Congress must tackle.

As the United States cleans up electricity generation and decarbonizes transportation, the share of greenhouse emissions attributable to industrial activity is likely to increase. America cannot reach its midcentury net zero goals if it does not dramatically cut industrial emissions. I<sup>3</sup> looks forward to working with Chairman Carper, the Committee, Congress, and the Administration on this vital task. We welcome the opportunity to participate in an open dialogue to further discuss how Congress can act on this important issue.



# The Industrial Innovation Initiative

Copied to:

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin  
Senator Bernard Sanders  
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse  
Senator Jeff Merkley  
Senator Edward J. Markey  
Senator Debbie Stabenow  
Senator Mark Kelly  
Senator Alex Padilla  
Senator John Fetterman

Senator Kevin Cramer  
Senator Cynthia M. Lummis  
Senator Markwayne Mullin  
Senator Pete Ricketts  
Senator John Boozman  
Senator Roger F. Wicker  
Senator Dan Sullivan  
Senator Lindsey Graham

Sincerely,

[The Industrial Innovation Initiative \(I3\)](#)