March 10, 2022

Subject: Support for S.F. 3661, Carbon Capture and Sequestration; State Policy

Dear Members of the Senate Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy Committee:

Center of the American Experiments endorses this legislation because it supports the development of energy supplies that are secure, reliable, affordable, and environmentally friendly.

The importance of energy security has regained prominence due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Unfortunately, many European nations have been limited in their response to Russia's unjust aggression because the energy policy decisions they have made for the last two decades left them hopelessly dependent upon Russian natural gas and oil.

Germany's initial response of sending just 5,000 military helmets to Ukraine was particularly distressing.[1] The German response was weak because the country shuttered its nuclear and coal-fired power plants and hoped to replace them with a combination of wind, solar, and imports of natural Russian gas.

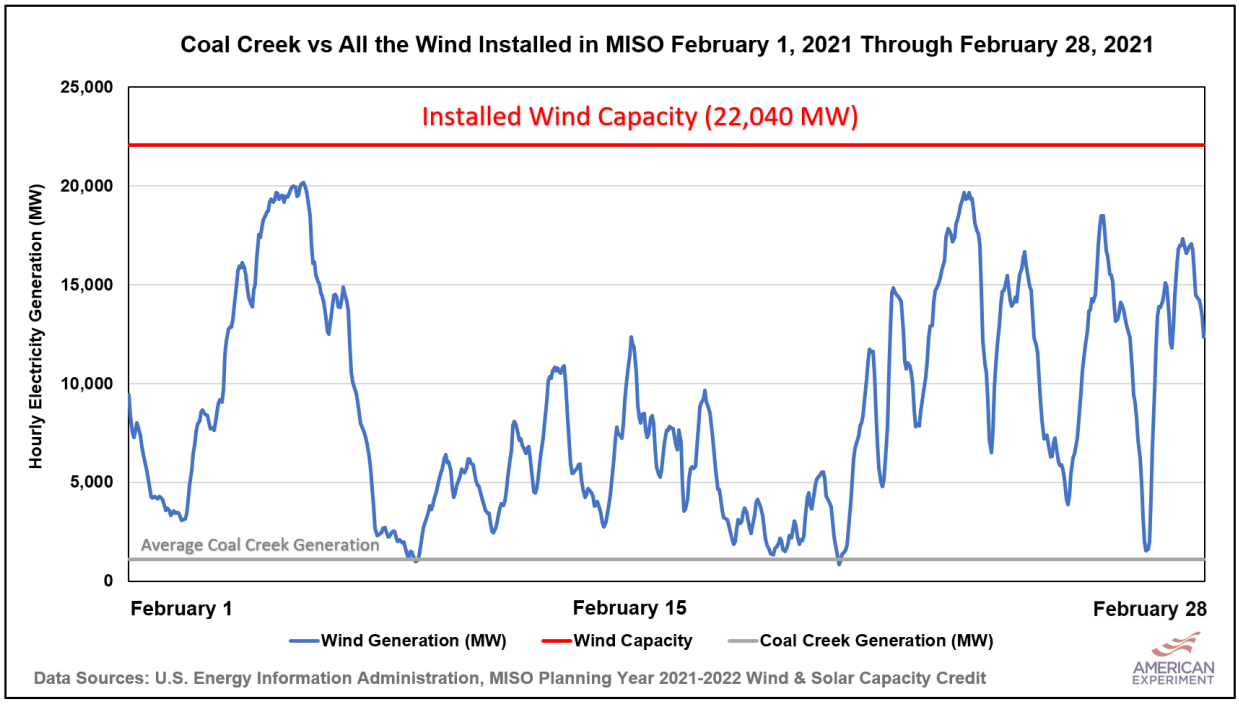
America is blessed with abundant reserves of coal, oil, and natural gas, allowing our nation to not only be energy independent, but to export energy to our European allies during this time of crisis. With carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology, America can continue to benefit from the reliability these fuels provide to the electric grid while also lowering their environmental footprint.

Multiple coal-fired power plants in North Dakota are currently exploring the use of CCS to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide while providing reliable electricity to Minnesota homes and businesses, even during the most extreme winter weather conditions.

It is an unfortunate fact of life that wind turbines often fail to generate electricity when the energy is needed most. During the Polar Vortex of February of 2021, U.S. Energy Information Administration data show that the 22,000 MW of wind installed on the regional electric grid, the Midcontinent Independent Systems Operator (MISO) produced less electricity than the 1,150 MW Coal Creek Station for multiple hours of the winter storm (See Figure 1).[2]

[1] https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/27/world/europe/germany-5000-helmets-ukraine.html

[2] https://www.americanexperiment.org/during-periods-of-the-polar-vortex-coal-creek-generated-more-electricity-than-the-entire-miso-wind-fleet/



Adding CCS equipment to Coal Creek Station will allow it to generate reliable, affordable, and low-carbon energy around the clock, regardless of weather conditions. This provides a superior value to the electric grid during times of great stress without compromising on emissions.

Including the use of CCS technology to meet Minnesota's greenhouse gas emissions goals is a common sense policy that allows Americans to utilize the vast natural resources that we have been blessed with while providing fuel secure, reliable, affordable, and environmentally friendly electricity to the Minnesota homes and businesses that rely upon it.

For these reasons, Center of the American Experiment supports this legislation.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact:

Isaac Orr, Policy Fellow, Center of the American Experiment| Isaac.orr@americanexperiment.org |612-336-4514