



# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

**John Gage**  
National President

**J. David Cox, Sr.**  
National Secretary-Treasurer

**Andrea E. Brooks**  
National Vice President for  
Women and Fair Practices

September 11, 2008

The Honorable Rick Boucher  
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality  
2187 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, which represents over 600,000 federal employees who serve the American people across the nation and around the world, including the employees in the Department of Energy's (DoE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), which has offices in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Oregon, I am writing about H.R. 6258, a bill that would promote the development and deployment of systems for the capture and storage of carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel electric generation facilities.

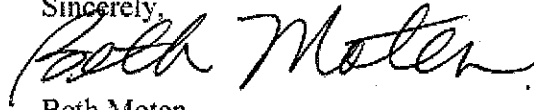
While we support the goal of the legislation, I am concerned that this proposal in its current form does not appear to have a major role for the NETL, which has been the major force in developing and deploying Clean Coal Technologies (CCT) for many decades. Any new initiatives to further those accomplishments should include NETL as a key player.

The establishment of a private corporation to perform a mission similar or identical to that which is already performed by an existing federal entity could inspire calls to abolish or privatize that federal entity. And, as federal employees have learned during the Bush Administration, calls for abolition or privatization of a federal entity can and are made irrespective of that federal entity's overall performance. Moreover, as a matter of policy, AFGE firmly believes in NETL's key role in the oversight and management of Fossil Energy programs for the benefit of the American public.

AFGE is very appreciative of your strong support for federal employees, particularly on issues of pay, collective bargaining, civil service protections against politics and favoritism, and contracting out. Moreover, we also support your efforts to promote research and deployment of CCT. AFGE has strongly opposed the efforts of this Administration and its predecessors to cut funding for this important initiative which could ultimately ensure coal's place as America's dependable energy source. However, we also believe that the primary responsibility for this effort should continue to be borne by the reliable and experienced employees at the NETL.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. Please call me at (202) 639-6404 if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Moten". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "B".

Beth Moten  
Legislative and Political Director

c.c. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
House Majority Leader Hoyer