Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce the Department of Energy Carbon Capture and Sequestration Program Amendments Act of 2011, along with Senators *Barrasso, Rockefeller and Murkowski.* It is critical that we work toward reducing our greenhouse gas footprint while producing safe and secure, clean energy here in America. I believe this bill will go far to incentivize early project developers to start reducing carbon dioxide emissions through carbon capture and geologic sequestration.

This bipartisan bill establishes a national program through the Department of Energy to facilitate up to 10 commercial-scale carbon capture and sequestration projects. There is a clear need to address both the issues of liability and adequate project financing for early-mover projects. The program in this bill is a strong step to building confidence for project developers demonstrating that the projects will be conducted safely while addressing the growing concerns of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from industrial facilities, such as coal and natural gas power plants, cement plants, refineries and other carbon intensive industrial processes. Such an early movers program will go far also assisting project developers and regulators to better understand and characterize any risks which may be associated with long-term geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide.

In addition, this legislation maps out a clear framework for long-term assurance for geological storage sites. It is essential to consider the issue of safe, long-term storage of carbon dioxide and take the steps needed for site stewardship during the injection phase, directly after site closure and for long-term preventative maintenance of the geologic storage facility.

Many stakeholders associate maintenance issues with liability concerns. In my view, these are two separate issues. Maintenance is essential for reducing risk and limiting liabilities at a storage site, and it is critical to have robust monitoring, accounting, and verification of an injected carbon dioxide plume at each of the storage sites that would continue well past site closure. With a proper site maintenance program developed for each project, risk will be minimized and developers will have greater confidence that liabilities will not be incurred. This legislation will require science-based monitoring and verification of the injected carbon dioxide plume throughout the life of the project to well beyond the closure phase. This bill is consistent with the current efforts to provide a strong regulatory framework for safe geologic storage of carbon dioxide through the Underground Injection Control Program under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

As carbon capture and sequestration projects grow in both scale and number, there will be an increasing need to train qualified regulators to oversee the permitting, operation, and closure of geologic storage sites. This bill also creates a grant program whose goal is to train personnel at State agencies which will oversee the regulatory aspects of geologic storage of carbon dioxide.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the record.