

Comment by Karen Feridun on CCS and Process Issues

I apologize for being slow to submit a written version of the comment I made at the July CAC meeting. My comment expanded on something Larry Schweiger had mentioned in his comment on SB 831. He'd noted that there had been no hearings on the bill.

Indeed, since we commented at your meeting, the bill has passed and has been signed by Governor Shapiro without any hearings or discussion. It was never sent to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, one of the reasons the co-chairs voted against it.

When Senator Yaw put out his press release announcing the bill had passed in the legislature, the second quote went to Rob Bair, head of the Building Trades. No scientists were cited.

Very few people were privy to what was discussed that led to SB 831's passage. In fact, Stephen Caruso of *Spotlight PA* tweeted legislators had joked that they are in the Mushroom Caucus, meaning they're kept in the dark and fed, well, you know. I can only guess, of course, but I can't help but think that labor was "in the room," science wasn't.

I find that extraordinarily concerning. I don't want a construction expert determining energy policy for Pennsylvania any more than I want a climate scientist building a skyscraper. And when the bill gets to the point of being negotiated at the 11th hour behind closed doors, it's especially concerning that it got there by being rushed through committees with no thought given to what the bill actually does. But most concerning is that our legislature and governor appear to have learned nothing from our experience with fracking.

Only a handful of studies had been done when fracking came to the state, but that didn't stop the Rendell administration and legislature from jumping in with both feet. Now, countless harms, including deaths, illnesses, lost property, lost quality of life, and so many others, plus thousands of peer reviewed papers, media investigations, government reports, and other resources make it clear we should have taken a breath, at the very least.

And here we are, jumping in with both feet again, only this time the technology is even less well understood. At least a driller could demonstrate that if they fracked a well, gas would come out. The companies looking to profit from turning PA into a carbon waste dump can't demonstrate that if they inject CO₂ into the ground, it *won't* come out.

I hope this is not the beginning of a disturbing trend. When I commented at your last meeting, it was to say that I'm aware of at least one other bill, the Sustainable Aviation Fuel bill, that appears to be making its way through the legislature in much the same way the Carbon Capture bill did.

On Monday, the Climate Countdown Clock we installed in the Capitol two years ago ticked down from five years to four. There's no time left to get things wrong.

Thank you.