

Vernon Parish Police Jury Statement on Carbon Sequestration in Vernon Parish

The Vernon Parish Police Jury has been monitoring the situation regarding Carbon Sequestration since we were made aware of the plans to place CO₂ injection wells in our parish. Vernon Parish residents have expressed their concerns regarding the test wells and potential injection sites, and the potential impacts that CO₂ sequestration may have on their land, their mineral rights, to our water aquifer, and to future economic impacts in the parish. The jury has asked, and continues to ask, questions regarding the safety, environmental impacts, and other impacts to residents that may occur with carbon sequestration. In order to address these concerns, and get answers to as many questions as possible, the jury has implemented the following:

- In May 2024 the jury passed a resolution requesting Information and Time for Evaluation from the State of Louisiana prior to the issuance of any permits for Class VI Injection Wells in the parish
- In August 2024 the President of the jury created the Carbon Sequestration Committee.
 - Cody Hostetler, Chairman
 - David Fox
 - Scottie Benjamin
 - Dean Mitchell
 - Jim Tuck, *ex-officio*
- In August 2024 the jury authorized to join other parish police juries in the creation of the Louisiana CO₂ Alliance.
 - The Vernon Parish Police Jury is a founding member of the Louisiana CO₂ Alliance.
 - There are two members of the jury serving on the board of directors
 - Scottie Benjamin, Vice President
 - Cody Hostetler, Secretary
- In November 2024 the jury adopted a resolution in objection to Carbon Sequestration until there is better understanding of the potential impacts to our parish and its residents.
- In March of 2025, the jury adopt two additional resolutions:

- A resolution in of support of Rep. Owen’s HB4 which “authorizes a parish governing authority to determine whether Class VI carbon dioxide injection wells may be permitted within its parish.”
- A resolution requesting the state legislature postpone issuing permits for Class V and Class VI wells in Vernon Parish until the final adjournment of the 2025 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session, to ensure that any significant legislative changes that could impact the Vernon Parish local government agencies are allowed to take effect.