

Speech from Miljø-foreningen Havnsø-Føllenslev at the demonstration 17th August 2026 arranged by Den Grønne Ungdomsbevægelse and Nordic Climate Justice Coalition.



Jan Brunchmann speaks at the demonstration

BREAK THE CHAINS

My name is Jan Brunchmann, and I represent the Havnsø-Føllenslev Environmental Association.

I stand here today because Equinor and Ørsted plan to pump millions of tonnes of CO₂, under high pressure, down beneath our homes, our schools, our public institutions, our businesses and our protected natural areas. With the full backing of the Danish government and Parliament, who are prepared to undermine democracy in their rush to get carbon capture and storage up and running and meet their short-term climate targets.

I stand here today to remind you that CCS – Carbon Capture and Storage – was developed so that the oil industry and other fossil fuel industries can continue their business for as long as possible without having to make the fundamental transition that is actually needed, while short-term demands for profit are put ahead of human needs such as protecting life, the environment and the climate.

I stand here today because there are plans to build a CO₂ hub in the outer harbour here in Kalundborg, which is supposed to receive and forward one million tonnes of CO₂ every year.

I stand here today because Equinor and Ørsted want to build a CO₂ pipeline through our local communities, from here to Snertinge or thereabouts, so that they can get rid of their CO₂ waste as cheaply as possible. A pipeline that Kalundborg Refinery will also be able to use for *their* CO₂ waste.

I stand here today because Equinor, the Norwegian oil company, wants to import huge quantities of CO₂ from across Europe, securing billions in profits while at the same time making its environmental accounts look much greener. I believe that is what they call greenwashing – with profit.

I stand here today because we have to speak up on behalf of our children and grandchildren – and the generations that come after them. Because once this has been done, it cannot be undone. We cannot allow generations to live with the uncertainty and the risk that, despite all the assurances, serious accidents may nevertheless occur. Experience from other countries shows that transporting and storing CO₂ is by no means without significant risks.

I stand here today because the Danish government and Parliament are spending enormous amounts of taxpayers' money on a solution that is about as effective as a snowball in hell.

I stand here today because **THERE ARE CHAINS TO BE BROKEN.**

BREAK THE CHAIN that has as its final link the storage of up to 300 million tonnes of CO₂ beneath inhabited areas and protected nature – right here beneath our feet.

The political part of the chain starts in the EU. It continues in the Danish Parliament, which rapidly changes the law so that no one can challenge or call out the abuses being inflicted on the population. And the chain continues deep into Kalundborg Municipality, where they roll out the red carpet and grant every permit you could possibly want – with little regard for the environment.

The entire project becomes a physical chain – with capture... transport... and storage. Originally intended *and agreed* as storage beneath the North Sea. But now – to make it cheaper! –to be stored on land, beneath inhabited areas. Money rules.

The final link in the chain is the consequences – both physical and financial. The damages caused by the construction, the risks and the costs are being left to us citizens, both here and in the other places earmarked for underground CO₂ waste repositories.

The energy companies take the profits. We pay the bill.

We demand that the commercial element be taken out of the equation, that we get a plan for meeting our climate targets without CCS, and that CO₂ storage beneath land be prohibited.

BREAK THE CHAIN also means:

Break the chain that binds political parties to honour their political agreements (forlig), even when the underlying circumstances have changed radically.

It all began with agreements under which the CO₂ was supposed to be stored in the old oil fields. But then, suddenly, it moved onshore. For economic reasons, of course!

It is a huge disappointment that the Danish Social Liberal Party (Radikale Venstre), the Socialist People's Party (SF), The Alternative (Alternativet) and the Red-Green Alliance (Enhedslisten) are still part of every major CO₂ agreement, including the agreement they call “streamlining” – but which in reality undermines democracy by removing citizens' right to appeal in matters concerning CCS.

When politicians realise that the underlying circumstances have changed, they must have both the courage – and the possibility – to withdraw. Why should they – and why should we – respect political agreements and voting agreements that were made behind closed doors and that fail to respect fundamental citizens' rights, such as the requirements for transparency and openness under the Aarhus Convention?

We demand that the right to appeal be restored, that Laws L92 and L93 from March this year be repealed, and that existing political agreements and voting agreements be renegotiated considering the changed circumstances and with proper consideration for people and nature.

BREAK THE CHAIN also means breaking our trust in the chain of arguments being used to tell us why we supposedly *have no choice but* to use Carbon Capture and Storage to save the climate.

We have seen far too many examples of the truth being treated far too casually, and of the fact that we cannot simply believe everything the authorities tell us. Just look at pesticides in our drinking water, Nordic Waste near Randers, Cheminova, and all the other cases of pollution passed down from one generation to the next.

And now Carbon Capture and Storage – CCS. We hear statements from experts who, when you look more closely, have interests in the CCS industry themselves. And we hear statements from companies that ought to know what they are talking about, but that, to put it mildly, tell us only a fraction of the truth – if what they say is not simply wrong.

What comes from the authorities isn't exactly reassuring either.

For the third year in a row, Denmark has been criticised by the European Commission because it continues to ignore key recommendations concerning transparency, democratic accountability and rules governing lobbying. So much for Denmark as a leading democratic nation!

We have to face the fact that trust no longer works. It is sad. But it is reality.

We demand an open and credible public debate about CO₂ storage, and that municipalities in Denmark – just as the federal states can in Germany – should be able to decide whether they will allow CO₂ repositories in their territory – following consultation with their citizens.

BREAK THE CHAIN all the way back to the people in the EU – including Danish Energy Commissioner Dan Jørgensen – who came up with the idea that Denmark should become Europe's CO₂ dumping ground.

The EU has decided that companies which continue to generate CO₂ and want to make their environmental accounts look greener – such as the refinery here – should be able to store at least 50 million tonnes per year by 2030, and more than ten times that amount by 2050. This is **NOT** intended as a temporary solution, as we so often hear as an excuse. Quite the contrary.

The EU is working on legislation to lay 19,000 kilometres of pipeline across Europe so that captured CO₂ can end up here in Denmark – millions of tonnes of CO₂ every year, right beneath our feet.

Just like the Danish government, the EU has still not realised that Carbon Capture and Storage is a bad solution. But perhaps the energy companies themselves have. Around the world, we are seeing very poor results in the relatively few places where CCS has managed to work at all.

The efficiency is terrible. The economics are terrible. Only a fraction of the promised capture rates are actually achieved. It requires enormous amounts of additional energy. There are unforeseen problems all the time. And more and more projects are being abandoned. But not in Denmark. Here, we happily charge ahead – with the taxpayers' money.

We demand that this billion-kroner project, which is experimenting with people's health and well-being, be stopped altogether – or at the very least put on hold until more international experience is available.

BREAK THE CHAIN, so that the CO₂ does not reach the underground beneath our feet.

We must fight to ensure that the pipelines are not built, that the CO₂ tanker trucks stay 'at home' – and that the plans to store CO₂ on land are abandoned.

Then they can ship their liquid CO₂ out to the empty oil fields in the North Sea. At least then it will not end up beneath inhabited areas, where it **absolutely, under no circumstances**, belongs.

So I stand here today to get **MORE** people to do **MORE**.

We need climate action – but it has to be the **RIGHT** climate action.

Carbon Capture and Storage is a distraction that is happening right now and right here.

CCS imposes risks on us that we have neither asked for nor had any say in. It violates our privacy, our property rights, our rights as citizens, and our sense of justice.

This is not climate action. It is an excuse for doing nothing.

And it costs billions that could be put to far better use.

But we are approaching the **FINAL CALL** if this is to be stopped.

So don't hesitate! Speak up wherever you can, wherever you go – including on social media.

Join an organisation that is fighting with you and for you. For example, the Young Climate Movement (DGUB=, NOAH – or the Havnsø-Føllenslev Environmental Association. We need active people. And we need money.

The oil and energy companies and their politicians have made it difficult for us.

But it is still not impossible.

Take responsibility.

Join the fight.

BREAK THE CHAINS!