

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of our collective millions of members and supporters, we write to express our full support of Senate Joint Resolution (S.J.Res.) 14 and House Joint Resolution (H.J.Res. 34), providing for congressional disapproval of recent executive action to roll back the 2016 methane and volatile organic compound standards. We urge Congress to swiftly vote to pass this resolution, an action which would allow the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to accelerate strengthening safeguards against methane and other pollution.

As you know, methane is a potent pollutant that is responsible for around 25 percent of the impacts of climate change we are experiencing today. In 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established regulations to tackle methane and other dangerous emissions from new and modified sources within the oil and gas sector, which is the largest industrial source of methane pollution. This action took concrete steps to implement science-based standards to combat previously unchecked emissions. The oil and gas sector is likewise a significant source of smog-forming volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants in communities across the nation.

In the waning days of the previous administration, EPA finalized a rule that eliminated safeguards that protect our climate and communities from oil and gas pollution and attempted to erect barriers to the promulgation of future standards. Many oil and gas operators, natural gas users like utilities, states, and environmental and health groups support federal standards to regulate methane emissions. Many environmental and health groups, state and local governments, utilities and other gas purchasers, oil and gas operators, and even the American Petroleum Institute (API), have expressed support for federal rules to curb the oil and gas industry's wasteful methane releases—wasted gas worth \$2.4 billion, which could be used to heat approximately 12.5 million homes in a year. Adopting S.J.Res. 14 and H.J.Res. 34 will reinstate pollution protections and clear the path for EPA to move forward with widely-supported, sensible safeguards for methane and other pollution from oil and gas production.

We must take early action to reduce harmful methane emissions as a necessary step to combating the climate crisis. Regulation of dangerous methane emissions is critical to lowering the magnitude of warming we will experience around 2050. We need leaders who will fight for a healthier future and seek ambitious next-generation standards for new and existing oil and gas facilities. S.J.Res. 14 provides the EPA with a clean slate to get back to a regulatory process that makes scientific sense and gets our goal of ambitious methane emissions reductions back on track, while advancing our collective climate and environmental justice goals.

Sincerely,

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League  
Brighter Green  
Center for Civic Policy  
Center for Human Rights and Environment  
Chapel Hill Organization for Clean Energy  
Citizens Caring for the Future  
Citizens' Environmental Coalition  
Clean Air Council  
Clean Air Task Force  
Clean Water Action  
Climate Advocates Voces Unidas  
Climate Law & Policy Project  
Conservation Colorado  
Conservation Voters New Mexico  
Dakota Resource Council  
Defend Our Future  
Earth Action, Inc.  
Earthjustice  
Earthworks  
Empire State Consumer Project  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Fort Berthold POWER  
Franciscan Action Network  
Grand Canyon Trust  
GreenLatinos  
Health Action New Mexico  
Hispanic Access Foundation  
Interfaith Power & Light  
League of Conservation Voters  
League of Oil and Gas Impacted Coloradans  
Moms Clean Air Force  
National Organization for Women  
National Parks Conservation Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light  
New Mexico Sportsmen

Partnership for Responsible Business  
Powder River Basin Resource Council  
ProgressNow Colorado  
Project CoffeeHouse  
Protect All Children's Environment  
Public Citizen  
Rachel Carson Council  
Responsible Drilling Alliance  
Rio Grande Indivisible  
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union  
Santa Fe Green Chamber of Commerce  
Sciencecorps  
Sierra Club  
The Evangelical Environmental Network  
The Greater Prince William Climate Action  
Network  
The Ohio Environmental Council  
The Wilderness Society  
Waterkeeper Alliance  
Western Colorado Alliance  
Western Organization of Resource Councils  
Young Evangelicals for Climate Action