April 26, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi                                The Honorable Charles Schumer
Speaker                                                    Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives                             U.S. Senate
H-232, U.S. Capitol                                       S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515                                      Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy                              The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader                                            Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives                             U.S. Senate
H-204, U.S. Capitol                                        S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515                                      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