



The State of Texas
House of Representatives

December 4, 2015

To: Environmental Protection Agency, Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20460, Attention Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0505, a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov

Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New and Modified Sources

As elected legislators from the leading oil and gas-producing state in the United States, we write to formally support the proposed Environmental Protection Agency's oil and gas methane emissions standards. When adopted and implemented, this common sense and cost-effective set of rules will be an important tool for protecting the climate and public health.

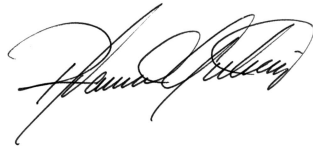
Methane is a potent greenhouse gas packing 84 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over a 20-year timeframe. The EPA's goal of reducing methane emissions in the oil and gas sector by 40 to 45 percent over the next decade is a huge opportunity to impact climate change in both the short and long term.

The proposed EPA rule will also help substantially reduce Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions that can negatively impact local and regional air quality. The proposed rule will serve as one more tool in the toolbox for addressing regional smog and public health.

Other oil and gas producing states and many individual companies have demonstrated the practical benefits of implementing policies and rules to reduce methane emissions. Currently, there are no rules on the book in Texas to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector, and none are expected anytime soon from the state. In fact, Texas has very flexible rules that allow large amounts of flaring and venting for oil and gas producers; no specific leak detection program requirements for oil and gas producers; and no specific air regulations on methane emissions for any industrial sectors.

We support the proposed EPA rule and believe it a key component of the Administration's plan for addressing climate change and a useful tool for protecting the health and safety of Texans.

Sincerely,



Roland Gutierrez
State Representative



Celia Israel
State Representative



Elliott Naishtat
State Representative



Jessica Farrar
State Representative



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State Representative



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State Representative



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