

Cutting Methane Pollution from Oil and Gas Operations Saves Money, Cleans our Air and Protects our Climate

The House Interior and Environment Appropriations bill includes language that would halt progress in reducing methane pollution from oil and gas operations.

This is bad for American consumers and future generations. Please vote to remove this loophole.

Why Methane Matters

- The U.S. loses almost \$2 billion worth of natural gas every year through methane leaks and intentional releases throughout the oil and gas system. This is enough natural gas to meet the heating and cooking needs of over 7 million American homes.
- Methane is released along with toxic and smog-forming pollutants such as volatile organic compounds, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene. The same technologies that reduce methane also limit these other harmful pollutants.
- Efforts to reduce methane waste can help foster a new and [growing economic sector](#) -- the businesses that develop, manufacture, and implement the technologies that increase efficiency in the oil and gas industry.

New Rules are Common Sense Steps to Stop Methane Leaks

- Experience at the state level and multiple studies have demonstrated that reducing methane pollution is highly cost-effective. According to one private-sector estimate, companies could cut methane emissions by 40 percent for about **one penny** per thousand cubic feet.
- Under recently finalized rules from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), new and modified oil and gas operations must take reasonable steps to find and repair leaks, and to deploy commonsense technologies and practices to limit waste and pollution.
- EPA estimates that this methane rule will deliver climate benefits of \$690 million a year by 2025, and that the benefits will outweigh the costs by \$170 million.
- The EPA rules build on successful policies pioneered in Colorado, Wyoming, and Ohio.
- This rule is expected to reduce 510,000 short tons of methane in 2025, delivering the same 20-year climate benefit as closing 11 coal-fired power plants or taking 8.5 million cars off the road.
- The Bureau of Land Management recently proposed standards requiring operators that drill on taxpayer and tribal-owned lands to curb natural gas waste and pollution.
- An estimated **\$330 million** of energy from taxpayer and tribal-owned lands is being wasted through leaks and the inefficient practice of venting and flaring. That's enough natural gas to supply all of the homes in a city the size of Chicago for a year.
- A bipartisan poll by [Colorado College](#) found that 80 percent of westerners support action to cut methane waste on public lands, and the [American Lung Association](#) found that 60 percent of voters nationwide support the new EPA rule that tackles new sources.

Say no to unlimited methane pollution