

August 2, 2016

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

Thank you for your leadership in addressing environmental issues to ensure that our children have a healthy and abundant future. As African American leaders in communities the hardest hit by climate change, we are writing to encourage your continued action on addressing methane pollution.

We are already seeing the impacts of climate change, particularly in marginalized communities. Climate change poses serious threats to the African American community, endangering the health and livelihood of millions of African American families in the United States. From heat-related mortality to increased asthma attacks to lost job opportunities, climate change disproportionately impacts African American communities, particularly when it comes to public health.

Methane is a highly potent heat-trapping pollutant that warms the climate 86 times more than carbon dioxide during the first twenty years after its release. The most significant source of methane emissions are oil and gas operations, which also emit other dangerous pollutants that harm our communities' health, including smog-forming volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and cancer-causing pollutants like benzene. Over one million African Americans live within a half a mile of oil and gas infrastructure. Strong methane pollution standards will deliver significant public health benefits by cutting emissions of these toxic air pollutants.

We applaud the EPA for beginning the formal process to require the oil and gas industry to provide information to assist in the development of comprehensive regulations to reduce methane emissions. The Information Collection Request (ICR) rule is an important first step in regulating existing sources of methane pollution.

Every child has the right to a pollution-free environment. We have a moral obligation to protect God's gift of air for our children and grandchildren. We applaud your leadership and urge you to continue to protect human health and God's creation by working towards comprehensive regulation of existing methane pollution.

Sincerely,

Rev. J. Edgar Boyd, First AME Church, Los Angeles, CA
Rev. Mary S. Minor, Brookins-Kirkland Community AME, Los Angeles, CA
Dr. Vincent Moore, Messiah Full Gospel Bible Fellowship, Los Angeles, CA
Rev. Michael Robinson, Beulahland Missionary Bpt. Church, Gardena, CA
Rev. Charles Price, Sr., Second Missionary Baptist Church, Oceanside, CA
Rev. Timothy E. Tyler, Shorter Community AME Church, Denver, CO
Elder Roland P. Joyner, Sr., New Covenant COGIC, Colorado Springs, CO

Rev. Darwin D. Little, Spottswood AME Zion Church, Denver, CO
Rev. Mark J. Hill, Cleaves CME Church, Denver, CO
Rev. Anthony Hill, St Luke CME Church, Denver, CO
Rev. Nick Wright, Bowers Memorial CME Church, Kansas City, MO
Rev. W.E. Marshall, St. James AME Church, St. Louis, MO
Rev. Robert Scott, Central Baptist Church, St. Louis, MO
Rev. Paul Cofer, Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, Springfield, MO
Rev. Ronald Bobo, Sr., Westside Missionary Baptist Church, St. Louis, MO
Rev. Jerry Webb, First CME Church, Anchorage, AK
Rev. Yolanda Jackson, St. Paul Evangelical CME Church, Anchorage, AK
Rev. LeRoy Haynes, Jr., Allen Temple CME Church, Portland, OR
Rev. Beverly Jackson, Curry Temple CME Church, Seattle, WA
Rev. Carolyn Thomas, Miles Memorial CME Church, Tacoma, WA

Rev. Reginald Walton, Phillips CME Church, Phoenix, AZ
Rev. Amanda Goodson, Trinity Temple CME Church, Tucson, AZ
Rev. Julian F. Couch, Jr., Faucette Memorial CME Church, Durham, NC
Rev. Maurice Bolden, Reid Memorial CME Church, Greensboro, NC
Rev. Robert Williams, Williams Chapel CME Church, High Point, NC
Rev. Robert Crawford, Bethel Baptist Church, Rock Hill, SC
Rev. M.N. Baxter, Jerusalem Baptist Church, Ft. Mill, SC
Rev. J.D. Blue, Sr., Second Baptist Church, Hartsville, SC
Rev. Waymon Mumford, Central Baptist Church, Florence, SC
Rev. Ezekiel F. Hampton, Meadow Prong Baptist, Effingham, SC
Rev. Norman Gamble, New Ebenezer Baptist Church, Florence, SC
Rev. Michael Glenn, Friendship Baptist Church, Spartanburg, SC
Rev. Betty Blue, Allen-Ebenezer CME, Church, Milwaukee, WI
Rev. Willie F. Dockery, Jr., Bethel CME Church, Milwaukee, WI
Rev. Roland Brown, Miles Memorial CME Church, Rockford, IL
Rev. Claudia Robinson-Dunlap, Allen Chapel CME Church, Gary, IN
Rev. Willie Weaver, Jr., Carter Memorial CME Church, Gary, IN
Rev. Terrell A. Jackson, Laymen Chapel CME Church, South Bend, IN
Rev. Thomas Harper, Wheeler Chapel CME Church, Robbins, IL
Rev. Otis Lane, South Suburban Mission CME, Robbins, IL
Rev. Chris Hale, All Saints Mission CME, Detroit, MI
Rev. Prince A. Williams, Isom Memorial CME, Belleville, MI
Rev. Joseph Clark, Lane Chapel CME, Topeka, KS
Rev. Rodney McDuffie, St. James CME Church, Leavenworth, KS
Rev. James C. Hendricks, Sr., St. Matthew CME Church, Wichita, KS
Rev. Shirley Fletcher, St. Peter CME Church, Kansas City, KS
Rev. Julius Clay, Williams Institutional CME Church, New York, NY
Rev. Chanita-Clay Thompson, Christ Waterbury CME Church, Waterbury, CN
Rev. Theresa Oliver, Mount Zion CME Church, Bronx, NY
Rev. Regina Reese-Young, Hopps Memorial CME Church, Syracuse, NY

Rev. Jeremy Williams, West End Tabernacle CME Church, Bridgeport, CN
Rev. Jeffrey R. Wheeler, Mount Calvary CME Church, Mt. Vernon, NY
Rev. John McCoy, Nazareth Baptist Church, Rock Hill, SC
Rev. William Ferguson, Mt. Prospect Baptist Church, Rock Hill, SC
Rev. Larry Floyd, Weeping Mary Baptist Church, Clover, SC
Rev. Dennis R. Williams, Faith Memorial Missionary Baptist, Charlotte, NC
Rev. Peter M. Wherry, Mayfield Memorial Missionary Baptist, Charlotte, NC
Rev. Charles Mack, Jr., Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC
Rev. Frederick Wilson, Life Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC
Rev. Byron Davis, Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC

Rev. James E. Palmer, University Memorial Missionary Bpt, Charlotte, NC
Rev. Delbert R. Brown, Concord Missionary Baptist Church, Clarksville, TN
Rev. Jordan Ivey, III, First Baptist Church, Nashville, TN
Rev. Benjamin Sweat, Mt. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Nashville, TN
Rev. James Davis, Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Nashville, TN
Rev. Quincy R. Moore, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Norfolk, VA
Rev. G. Ray Coleman, St. Mark AME Zion Church, Durham, NC
Rev. Anthony Davis, Mitchell Chapel AME Zion Church, Pittsboro, NC
Rev. Orlando Dowdy, Holland Chapel AME Zion Church, Apex, NC
Rev. Anthony Ford, Kyles Temple AME Zion Church, Durham, NC
Rev. Mary J. Turner, Corinth AME Zion Church, Siler City, NC
Rev. Sharon Mitchell, Olivers Chapel AME Zion Church, Staley, NC
Rev. Willie McCrimmon, O'Bryant Chapel AME Zion Church,, Chapel Hill, NC
Rev. Blake Bennett, Blacknall Chapel AME Zion Church, Sanford, NC
Rev. Brian R. Thompson, Simon Temple AME Zion Church, Fayetteville, NC
Rev. Arundel Hope, Ariel Bowen UM Church, Altanta, GA
Rev. Michael Stinson, Bethal UM Church, Altanta, GA
Rev. Byron Thomas, Ben Hill UM Church, Altanta, GA
Rev. Samuel Townsend, Laster's Chapel UM Church, College Park, GA
Rev. Sharad Creasman, Columbia Drive UM Church, Decatur, GA