

April 21, 2021  
President Joseph Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As organizations that care about public health as well as the fate of our planet's climate, we write to strongly urge you to direct the Environmental Protection Agency to immediately use the full power of sections 111(b) and 111(d) of the Clean Air Act to reduce methane air pollution from new and existing sources of oil and gas development by 65% by 2025. While the best and most just solution to the climate crisis is to transition away from fossil fuels and embrace a clean energy economy, utilizing the full power of the Clean Air Act now will reduce harm to frontline communities living with oil and gas development and help curb further global warming.

The best way to curb air pollution from fossil fuel development is to leave it in the ground. We must transition as quickly as possible away from our dependence on fossil fuels and fully embrace a new renewable energy economy. Continued reliance on fossil fuels, including natural gas, threatens the health of communities living with fossil fuel development and contributes to climate change, which threatens our planet's future. Even with the best regulations in place, oil and gas facilities will continue to pollute, and continued reliance on these energy sources will put us on a path toward a dangerously warmer planet.

But, until we manage the decline of fossil fuels and transition to a cleaner, more equitable energy system, we urge your Administration to do anything and everything to protect human health and the environment from the destructive impacts of oil and gas development. We thank you for recognizing the need to review President Trump's methane rollback as part of your Executive Order to tackle the climate crisis. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must use its authority under the Clean Air Act to develop methane regulations for the oil and gas sector that will reduce emissions by 65%. Directly regulating methane will also help capture smog-forming volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which trigger asthma attacks and aggravate respiratory conditions like bronchitis, as well as hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) such as benzene and formaldehyde, known human carcinogens.

Methane, the principal component of natural gas, is over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 20 year time period. The best science shows that methane pollution from oil and gas facilities in the United States is far worse than current, self-reported estimates suggest. Recent studies found methane emissions levels to be 60% greater than currently estimated by the Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, as noted above, smog-causing VOCs and toxic HAPs, including cancer-causing agents, are released in significant quantities throughout the oil and gas development process, through transmission to end use, even if that end use is overseas. Ozone smog from oil and gas industry pollution is associated with 1.1 million summertime asthma attacks in children, and over 9 million people face a cancer risk that

exceeds EPA's one-in-a-million threshold level of concern due to emissions from oil and gas facilities.

To reiterate, merely reducing methane emissions from the oil and gas industry will not make drilling and fracking safe, or natural gas "clean." Fossil fuel development is inherently risky and puts communities and our planet in jeopardy, beyond the harmful air pollution it produces. Despite the fact that oil and gas wastes often contain hazardous and even radioactive properties, it is exempt from our federal hazardous waste law, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. And, hydraulic fracturing poses a threat to drinking water resources because of the "Halliburton loophole" that exempts it from the Safe Drinking Water Act. An immediate shift to renewable energy is the only way we can protect our health, land and water, as well as achieve climate justice.

The oil and gas industry must be held to the same standards as other major industries while we work as a nation to swiftly transition to a truly clean energy economy. Even when there are modestly protective laws on the books, they are rarely enforced. Regulators defer to industry needs over the well-being of surrounding communities. Without substantial resources for enforcement, including means of ensuring legitimate accountability from the industry, communities will continue to be placed last in the industry's list of priorities, which harms both present and future populations.

Building back better means building back fossil fuel free. We must couple strong methane regulations to control air pollution from oil and gas development with throwing the full weight of our resources behind decarbonizing our economy to address the climate crisis. Stopgap measures like methane pollution standards will reduce climate pollution and protect communities in the short term, until this country makes the necessary transition away from dirty, dangerous fossil fuels.

Sincerely,

198 methods  
350 Bay Area Action  
350 Charlotte  
350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley  
350 Eugene  
350 New Hampshire  
350 New Orleans  
350 Pensacola  
350 Santa Fe  
350 Tacoma  
350 Everett WA  
350 Hawaii  
350 Kishwaukee (Illinois)  
350 PDX

Adorers of the Blood of Christ  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
Aytzim: Ecological Judaism  
BCMAC  
Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community (BCMAC)  
Beyond Extreme Energy  
Buckeye Environmental Network  
Center for Civic Policy  
Center for Human Rights and Environment (CHRE)  
CITIZEN  
Clean Air Council  
Clean Energy Now Texas  
Clean Water Action  
Climate Action Rhode Island-350  
Climate Advocates Voces Unidas (CAVU)  
Climate Reality Project  
Climate Reality Project of Coastal Georgia  
Communities First--Sewickley Valley  
Congregation of Saint Joseph  
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes  
Counselor Chapter Health Committee  
Dakota Resource Council  
Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul  
Daughters of Wisdom US Province  
Denton Climate Awareness Group  
Diné Citizens Against Ruining our Environment  
Dogwood Alliance  
Dominican Sisters of Sparkill  
Earth Action, Inc.  
Earth Ethics, Inc.  
Earth Guardians  
Earthjustice  
Earthworks  
Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Earth Justice Action Team  
Environment America  
Environment Texas  
Extinction Rebellion  
Extinction Rebellion Houston  
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area  
Frack-Free Frostburg (Maryland)  
FracTracker Alliance  
Franciscan Action Network  
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart  
Friends of the Earth

Grassroots Coalition  
Green America  
Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy  
Healthy Gulf  
High Tide Foundation  
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC  
Indigenous People of the Coastal Bend  
Inland Ocean Coalition  
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Interfaith Power & Light  
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute  
Irving Impact  
Jews of the Earth  
League of Conservation Voters  
Liveable Arlington  
Los Padres ForestWatch  
Milwaukee Riverkeeper  
Mountain Maryland Movement  
Mountain Maryland Movement  
National Parks Conservation Association  
NEOGAP (Network for Oil and Gas Accountability and Protection)  
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light  
New Mexico Sportsmen  
New Mexico Sportsmen  
Nine Mile Run Watershed Association  
NM Environmental Law Center  
North Fork Ranch LOA  
Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation, Sisters of Charity of New York  
Oxfam America  
Pacific Environment  
PASUP (Pittsburghers Against Single Use Plastics)  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Project CoffeeHouse  
PSARA  
PSR Pennsylvania  
Rachel Carson Council  
Responsible Drilling Alliance  
Rio Grande Indivisible, NM  
Rio Grande Indivisible, NM  
Rio Grande International Study Center  
Rochester MN Franciscan  
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union  
San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper  
School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic Midwest Province

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Servants of Mary: U.S./Jamaica Community  
Sierra Club  
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine  
Sisters of Mercy  
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur EW  
Sisters of Notre Dame of the United States  
Sisters of St Francis of the Neumann Communities.  
Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, PA  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, LA  
Sisters, Servants of IHM  
SNJM  
Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project  
St Paul's Monastery  
Subra Company  
Sustainable Obtainable Solutions  
Texas Grass Roots Network  
The Evangelical Environmental Network  
The Ohio Environmental Council  
The Wilderness Society  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  
United 4 Clean Energy  
United Methodist Women  
Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland  
Waterkeeper Alliance  
West Texas Wind  
Western Environmental Law Center  
Western Leaders Network  
Western Watersheds Project  
Wheaton Franciscans JPIC Office

CC:

White House National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy  
Deputy White House National Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi  
EPA Administrator Michael Regan