

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2021

Contact: Kelly Rimar (kelly@stgresults.com)

Environmental, Public Health Groups Applaud EPA for Prioritizing Public Engagement Ahead of Rulemaking to Tackle Methane Pollution from Oil and Gas Operations, Protect Public Health

(Washington, DC)-- Today, the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) announced a public engagement process](#) as it begins crafting a new rule to curb methane and other dangerous emissions from new and existing oil and gas operations. As a part of this process, EPA will be hosting three listening sessions in June to allow environmental justice communities, Tribes, NGOS, businesses, industry, and state and local governments to weigh in and make their voices heard.

A coalition of environmental and public health groups (listed below) issued the following statement in response to EPA's announcement:

"We applaud EPA for prioritizing public input in its rulemaking process to address methane and other harmful pollutants from the oil and gas sector. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that wreaks havoc on our climate and is emitted from oil and gas operations alongside smog- and soot-forming pollutants and air toxins like benzene, a human carcinogen. Furthermore, in some areas of the country, pollution from oil and gas operations can disproportionately burden Black, Brown, and Indigenous people.

However, EPA could issue standards that eliminate 65 percent of oil- and gas-related methane by 2025 through a suite of technologies and best practices. By announcing three public listening sessions to inform its forthcoming rulemaking, EPA honors the voices of those most affected by this pollution. We are looking forward to participating in this public engagement process to ensure that the protections EPA proposes in September are strong, comprehensive, and include safeguards to protect our climate and public health for generations to come."

Signing Organizations

- **350 Santa Fe**
- **Center for Human Rights and Environment (CHRE)**
- **Clean Air Council**
- **Dakota Resource Council**
- **Earthjustice**
- **Evangelical Environmental Network**
- **Green Latinos**
- **Interfaith Power and Light**
- **Moms Clean Air Force**
- **Natural Resources Defense Council**
- **New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light**

- **Ohio Environmental Council**
- **Sierra Club**
- **United Methodist Women**
- **Western Environmental Law Center**
- **Western Organization of Resource Councils**

If you are interested in being connected with advocates from the following organizations, I am happy to put you in touch — just let me know!

- Green Latinos
- Moms Clean Air Force
- The Sierra Club (and the Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter)
- Ohio Environmental Council
- Earthworks

To sign-up to participate in a listening session please [click here](#).

###