

March 18, 2024

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our members and supporters, the groups listed below **strongly oppose H.R. 1023, legislation that would repeal the Methane Emissions Reduction Program (MERP). Repealing this critical program would harm the climate, impair public health, increase waste, and imperil economic benefits already being realized as a result of the program.** Reducing oil and gas methane emissions is one of the most efficient and effective ways to address climate change, reduce needless waste, and protect the health of the millions of Americans living in or around active oil and gas sites. Congress has repeatedly made clear that cutting methane emissions is a priority, most recently when it passed the MERP in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in 2022.

The MERP includes several important provisions that will help put the U.S. on a path to quickly cut methane emissions, which have already warmed the planet 0.5°C (total warming to date is about 1°C).<sup>1</sup> These provisions include a waste emissions charge, which only applies to operators with large facilities that release over 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gas emissions each year. These large oil and gas facilities are only responsible for paying the charge for the portion of emissions exceeding industry-developed, performance-based targets<sup>2</sup>, and many operators will not be required to pay any fees because they have already made investments to reduce their emissions. Similarly, an independent operator with hundreds of low-producing wells within a particular basin would likely not pay the charge. And of course, many operators are already taking steps now to avoid assessed fees by making cost-effective investments to reduce emissions and decrease waste, and those that have not still have ample time to do so. Many operators are already making those investments; delaying implementation lets bad actors off the hook, and studies show that every million metric tons of methane released in the atmosphere contributes to an additional 1,430 premature deaths annually.<sup>3</sup>

MERP is a forward-looking program, set to put the U.S. on a path of successfully and efficiently reducing oil and gas methane emissions and spurring economic innovation in methane mitigation. The standards and limits set in MERP complement the recently-finalized methane standards for oil and gas, are in line with the industry-set goals, and many operators understand the need to lower their emissions and have already started doing so.

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<sup>1</sup> IPCC, WGI, Summary for Policymakers 7 (2021), [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGI\\_SPM.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> See for example: <https://www.oqci.com/action-and-engagement/reducing-methane-emissions/#methane-target> and <https://onefuture.us/2022-methane-emissions-intensity-report/>

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, Global Methane Assessment: Benefits and Costs of Mitigating Methane Emissions (2021), [https://www.ccacoalition.org/sites/default/files/resources//2021\\_Global-Methane\\_Assessment\\_full\\_0.pdf](https://www.ccacoalition.org/sites/default/files/resources//2021_Global-Methane_Assessment_full_0.pdf)

**Again, we urge you to VOTE NO on H.R. 1023, legislation that would repeal the critical Methane Emissions Reduction Program.**

Sincerely,

350 Colorado

350 Wisconsin

Alabama Interfaith Power & Light

Arizona Climate Action Coalition

Arizona Interfaith Power & Light

Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America - Michigan Chapter

Bold Alliance

California Interfaith Power & Light

Ceres

Change the Chamber

Citizens Caring for the Future

Citizens Caring for the Future in Carlsbad, NM

Citizens' Climate Lobby

Clean Air Council

Clean Air Task Force

Clean Water Action

Climate Action Campaign

Climate Hawks Vote

Climate Law & Policy Project

Conservation Voters New Mexico

Dakota Resource Council

Defend Our Future

Delaware Interfaith Power & Light

Earthjustice

Earthworks

Elders Climate Action

Environment America

Environment Texas

Environmental Defense Fund

Environmental Law & Policy Center

Ethical And Respectful Treatment of Humans (EARTH)

Evergreen Action

Georgia Interfaith Power and Light

Green America

GreenLatinos  
Greenpeace USA  
Health Action New Mexico  
Hispanic Access Foundation  
Institute for a Progressive Nevada  
Interfaith Power & Light  
Jewish Earth Alliance- PA  
Keep Sedona Beautiful, Inc.  
League of Conservation Voters  
Liveable Arlington  
Los Padres ForestWatch  
Michigan Climate Action Network  
Moms Clean Air Force  
National Audubon Society  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
New Mexico & El Paso Interfaith Power and Light  
New Mexico Sportsmen  
Northern Arizona Climate Change Alliance  
Northern Plains Resource Council  
Oceana  
Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund  
Oxfam America  
PennEnvironment  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania  
Public Land Solutions  
Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light  
Rio Grande Indivisible, New Mexico  
Rio Grande International Study Center  
Runners for Public Lands  
Sierra Club  
Socially Responsible Investment Coalition  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
Texas Impact  
Texas Interfaith Power and Light  
The People's Justice Council  
The Wilderness Society

Three Rivers Waterkeeper  
U.S. PIRG  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
US Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development  
Waterkeeper Alliance  
West Virginia Rivers Coalition  
Western Colorado Alliance  
Western Leaders Network  
Western Organization of Resource Councils  
Zero Hour