

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 22, 2021

Dear President Biden:

We write regarding your continued attack on American energy, most recently with stringent regulations proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for methane. We believe these regulations not only exceed the statutory authority provided to EPA under the Clean Air Act (CAA), they also have the potential to increase energy prices and eliminate American jobs. Unfortunately, undermining American energy independence and good-paying Americans jobs has become a hallmark of your Administration. American consumers are bearing the brunt of your actions.

According to the Department of Energy, the national average price of gasoline has almost doubled since last year, while U.S. households are projected to spend 54 percent more for propane, 43 percent more for heating oil, 30 percent more for natural gas, and 6 percent more for electric heating this winter.<sup>1,2</sup>

Your Administration's radical anti-fossil fuel agenda has added immensely to the energy crisis Americans are facing today. On November 2, 2021, EPA proposed three separate actions to regulate methane emissions from new and existing oil and gas well sites, compressor stations, processing plants, and transmission and storage facilities.<sup>3</sup> The proposal will dramatically expand EPA's regulatory reach, undercutting rules issued under the prior Administration that removed regulatory duplication and would have saved millions of dollars each year.<sup>4</sup>

Additional methane regulations are unnecessary because they are duplicative of existing Federal and State regulations under the CAA for volatile organic compounds (VOC). EPA and the States already have strong emissions standards in place, which require pollution control equipment installed at oil and gas facilities that manage VOC and methane. As EPA has already determined, additional standards for methane are redundant with regulations for VOC, establish no additional health protections, and are, thus unnecessary.<sup>5</sup> These duplicative and unnecessary standards proposed by your Administration will harm American consumers. We are concerned that EPA's proposal will impose new regulatory costs that will be passed along to Americans in the form of higher energy prices, without providing any benefits to public health.

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<sup>1</sup> See U.S. Energy Information Administration, [Weekly Retail Gasoline and Diesel Prices](#), (November 15, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration. (October 13, 2021). [EIA forecasts higher U.S. heating bills this winter](#).

<sup>3</sup> See "[Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review](#)," 86 Fed. Reg. 63110 (November 15, 2021).

<sup>4</sup> See "[Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Review](#)" 85 Fed. Reg. 57018 (September 14, 2020).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 57030-57033

The CAA includes important safeguards to ensure EPA air regulations are necessary and appropriate. EPA's proposal violates statutory requirements under CAA Section 111 that require, as a predicate to establishing regulations for new sources, a finding that methane emissions from a source significantly contributes to air pollution that endangers public health or welfare. EPA's proposal also imposes improper requirements on States to issue additional methane regulations for existing sources under CAA Section 111(d). We are concerned that an additional motivation behind EPA's proposal is to trigger new and unnecessary methane regulations under CAA Section 111 for other sources beyond the oil and gas industry, without establishing that a pollutant significantly contributes to harmful air pollution.

Throughout the past year, your Administration, through Executive Orders and new regulations, has actively discouraged American energy production. On your first day in office, you revoked the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline and imposed a moratorium on fossil energy development on Federal lands and waters. These actions, combined with EPA's proposal, increase regulatory uncertainty, and discourage investments in American energy infrastructure and supplies. What's most concerning is that, even in the face of blaring warning signs that an energy crisis of your doing is hurting American consumers, your Administration refuses to reverse course.

EPA's proposal is harmful to the lives and livelihoods of millions of hardworking American families. We urge you to withdraw this proposal and refrain from issuing punitive regulations that further increase energy prices and undermine America's energy security.

Sincerely,



Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise  
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie  
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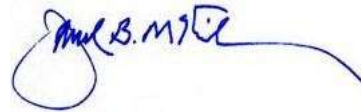
Michael Cloud  
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