April 26, 2017

Dear Senator:

We are writing for the second time to express our opposition to a proposal to use the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to block rules issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to limit natural gas waste from the oil and gas sector. As elected officials from local governments across the Interior West, we strongly support this recently adopted rule on venting and flaring methane, because it will cut natural gas waste on federal and tribal lands, will help ensure a fair return to local governments and the taxpaying public, will put our energy resources to good use, and will clean up our air. You received a first letter from 62 officials in February. Due to great concern over this issue, we are sending a second letter, now with more than 100 signatures from leaders across the west.

The CRA is a blunt tool that, if successful, would prevent any “substantially similar” rule from being issued, allowing the oil and natural gas industry to continue to waste hundreds of millions of dollars worth of taxpayer-owned resources every year, and use outdated, wasteful technologies.

The BLM’s rule to reduce methane waste from venting and flaring protects the interests of our western communities and constituents in a number of important ways:

- **The rule cuts the waste of American energy resources.** On federal and tribal lands, the rule would save more than $330 million worth of natural gas annually that could be used to heat homes, power vehicles or generate electricity. In fact, enough natural gas is wasted on these lands to supply 760,000 households each year.
• **The rule ensures a fair return to taxpayers.** States, tribes and federal taxpayers lose royalty revenues when natural gas is wasted – as much as $23 million annually in royalty revenue for the federal government and the states that share it, according to a 2010 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report. Federal royalties are split about evenly between the federal government and the states, and then used to help fund education; infrastructure projects, such as roads and bridges; and mitigation projects to address the impacts of energy development to western communities.

• **The rule helps clean up our air.** The same leaks that lead to natural gas waste also release toxic and smog-forming pollutants such as volatile organic compounds, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene. The same technologies that reduce natural gas waste also limit these other harmful pollutants and prevent asthma attacks and other smog-induced respiratory problems.

• **The rule helps create American jobs.** Efforts to cut methane waste has put American entrepreneurs to work creating innovative, cutting-edge technologies to make it economically feasible for oil and gas companies to achieve reductions. A national rule to cut methane waste on public and tribal lands helps to deepen investment and create more jobs in this industry. Leading oil and natural gas companies and several states, including Colorado, Wyoming, Ohio and Pennsylvania, have successfully adopted programs to reduce methane — the primary component of natural gas—and other air pollution from the oil and gas industry. After Colorado adopted the nation’s first-ever rule to cut methane waste and pollution, with support from both environmental advocates and oil and gas operators two years ago, the state’s oil and gas industry has continued to grow. Colorado’s natural gas production increased about 10 percent, oil production is up 58 percent, and the number of oil and gas wells also increased by more than three percent.

This common sense rule has strong bipartisan support among the public. A bipartisan poll by Colorado College found that 80 percent of westerners support action to cut natural gas waste on public lands, and a broad and diverse array of western stakeholders supported the BLM natural gas waste rule.
We urge your opposition to using the Congressional Review Act to eliminate the BLM’s rule to reduce natural gas waste because of the rule’s benefit to our local governments, constituents and taxpayers.

Sincerely yours,

**Colorado County Commissioners**

Gwen Lachelt  
La Plata County Commission

Julie Westendorff  
La Plata County Commission

Wally White  
Former La Plata County Commission

Josh Joswick  
Former La Plata County Commission

Eva Henry  
Adams County Commission

Chaz Tedesco  
Adams County Commission

Nancy Jackson  
Arapahoe County Commission

Michael Whiting  
Archuleta County Commission

Cindy Domenico  
Boulder County Commission

Deb Gardner  
Boulder County Commission

Elise Jones  
Boulder County Commission

Keith Baker  
Chaffee County Commission

Jill Ryan  
Eagle County Commission

Kathy Chandler-Henry  
Eagle County Commission

Jeanne McQueeney  
Eagle County Commission

Jonathan Houck  
Gunnison County Commission

Ben Tisdel  
Ouray County Commission

Lynn Padgett  
Former Ouray County Commission

Mike Brazell  
Park County Commission

Steve Child  
Pitkin County Commission

Rachel Richards  
Pitkin County Commission
Colorado Local Officials

Patti Clapper
Pitkin County Commission

George Newman
Pitkin County Commission

Greg Poschman
Pitkin County Commission

Tim Corrigan
Routt County Commissioner

Jason Anderson
Saguache County Commission

Hilary Cooper
San Miguel County Commission

Joan May
San Miguel County Commission

Kris Holstrom
San Miguel County Commission

Art Goodtimes
Former San Miguel County Commission

Karn Stiegelmeier
Summit County Commission

Thomas Davidson
Summit County Commission

Dan Gibbs
Summit County Commission

Auden Schendler
Basalt Town Council

Katie Schwoerer
Basalt Town Council

Suzanne Jones
Mayor, Boulder City Council

Sam Weaver
Boulder City Council

Aaron Brockett
Boulder City Council

Liza Morzel
Boulder City Council

Mary Dolores Young
Boulder City Council

Bette Erickson
Broomfield City Council

Kevin Kreeger
Broomfield City Council

Sam Taylor
Broomfield City Council

Robin L. Kniech
Denver City Council

Stacie Gilmore
Denver City Council

Christina Rinderle
Mayor, Durango City Council
Dean Brookie
Durango City Council

Anita "Sweetie" Marbury
Durango City Council

Richard White
Mayor Pro-Tem, Durango City Council

Marjorie Sloan
Golden City Council

Saoirse Charis-Graves
Golden City Council

Christine Berg
Mayor, Lafayette City Council

Gustavo Reyna
Mayor Pro-Tem, Lafayette City Council

Merrily Mazza
Lafayette City Council

Stephanie Walton
Lafayette City Council

Shakti
Lakewood City Council

Polly Christensen
Longmont City Council

Joan Peck
Longmont City Council

Bob Muckle
Mayor, Louisville City Council

Connie Sullivan
Mayor, Lyons Town Council

Dan Jansen
Mayor, Mountain Village Town Council

Cath Jett
Mountain Village Town Council

Dan Caton
Mountain Village Town Council

Michelle Sherry
Mountain Village Town Council

Laila Benitez
Mountain Village Town Council

Kristopher Larsen
Mayor, Nederland Town Council

John Clark
Mayor, Ridgway Town Council

Erick Johnson
Mayor Pro Tem, Ridgway Town Council

Ellen Hunter
Ridgway Town Council

Robb Austin
Ridgway Town Council

Sean Murphy
Mayor, Telluride Town Council
Ann Brady  
Mayor Pro-Tem, Telluride Town Council

Jenny Patterson  
Telluride Town Council

Todd Brown  
Telluride Town Council

DeLanie Young  
Telluride Town Council

Kristen Permakoff  
Telluride Town Council

Lars Carlson  
Telluride Town Council

Kim Langmaid  
Vail Town Council

Marie De Cambra  
Westminster City Council

Jack Turner  
Board Member, La Plata Electric Association

Heather Erb  
Former Board Member, La Plata Electric Association

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Regina Lopez Whiteskunk  
Former Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council

New Mexico Elected Officials

Debbie O’Malley  
Bernalillo County Commission

Maggie Hart Stebbins  
Bernalillo County Commission

Paula Garcia  
Mora County Commission

George Trujillo  
Mora County Commission

Anna Hansen  
Santa Fe County Commission

Pat Davis  
Albuquerque City Council

Katee McClure  
Aztec City Commission

Electric Cooperatives

Dave Munk  
Board Member, Holy Cross Energy

Britt Bassett  
Board Member, La Plata Electric Association

Jeff Berman  
Board Member, La Plata Electric Association
Javier Gonzales  
Mayor, Santa Fe City Council

Joseph Maestas  
Santa Fe City Council

Senator Linda Lopez  
Albuquerque

Senator Bill O’Neill  
Albuquerque

Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino  
Albuquerque

Senator Jeff Steinborn  
Las Cruces

Representative Cheryl Williams  
Stapleton  
Albuquerque

Mary McGann  
Vice-chair, Grand County Council

Evan Clapper  
Grand County Council

Chris Baird  
Grand County Council

Rani Derasary  
Moab City Council

Kalen Jones  
Moab City Council

Andy Beerman  
Park City Council

Idaho Elected Officials

Christopher Koch  
Mayor, Bellevue City Council

Robert Leahy  
Bellevue City Council

Gregory Cappel  
Bellevue City Council

Shaun Mahoney  
Bellevue City Council

Kathryn Goldman  
Bellevue City Council

Craig Wolfram  
Bellevue City Council

Nevada Elected Officials

Chris Giunchigliani  
Clark County Commission

David Bobzien  
Reno City Council

Jenny Brekhus  
Reno City Council

Utah Elected Officials

Jaylyn Hawks  
Chair, Grand County Council
Angenie McCleary
Blaine County Commission

Jacob Greenberg
Blaine County Commission

Lawrence Schoen
Blaine County Commission

**Wyoming Elected Officials**

Natalia Macker
Teton County Commission