STATEMENT ON PROPOSAL TO REPEAL BLM’s METHANE WASTE PREVENTION RULE

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“Clean air and smart, efficient use of resources are western values, which is why Western Leaders Network opposes the rollback of the BLM methane rule. By undoing the rule, the Trump administration is allowing millions of taxpayer dollars to go to waste and air pollution to continue to jeopardize the health of farmers, ranchers, outdoorsmen and women, energy industry employees and the general public. This latest move confirms that current federal leadership puts private interests ahead of public welfare and does not support public health, the environment or cracking down on preventable methane emissions that would mean money for local governments.”

– Katee McClure, Aztec City Commissioner

The BLM previously finalized its methane waste prevention rule in 2016 to curb methane venting, leaking and flaring on federal and tribal lands through a set of standards for oil and gas operators. The rule was developed through a public, multi-year process; was upheld by a Senate vote in May 2017; and was due to take effect last month. The administration announced a one-year suspension of the rule in December 2017. Today’s announcement would substantially weaken the rule, which contradicts the public interest. A recent poll of Western voters finds that more than 75 percent of respondents support the methane rule.