Andrew R. Wheeler  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue  
NW Washington, D.C. 20460  

Nov. 25, 2019  

Dear Administrator Wheeler,

We the undersigned write in opposition to the Environmental Protection Agency’s rollback of its methane emission standards. Recently, the EPA released a proposed rule to completely eliminate regulations for methane emissions from the oil and gas industry, which would remove from the scope of federal oversight all existing oil and gas facilities nationwide. This is yet another blow to taxpayers and the environment in addition to the agency’s separate proposal last fall to significantly weaken pollution control standards adopted in 2016. By doing this, EPA is also attempting to shirk its legal obligation to regulate existing oil and gas pollution sources and protect our health and environment by addressing climate change.

As local elected officials from across the Interior West, we can speak from experience about the realities of climate change. We’re seeing more frequent and extreme droughts, heatwaves, floods, wildfires and other impacts that threaten our economies and quality of life. And we know that reducing methane is a key piece of addressing our climate crisis. As such, we can’t be serious about addressing climate change while simultaneously undoing protections against a greenhouse gas that’s 87 times more potent that carbon dioxide in disrupting the climate. Moreover, a recent study found that the oil and gas industry produces more than 13 million metric tons of methane pollution annually, which is 60 percent more than EPA estimates. Failing to stop preventable methane waste is also a misuse of taxpayer resources. Tens of millions of royalty dollars are wasted each year as a result of wasted natural gas, which means many of our energy-producing western states and communities miss out on critical funding for infrastructure projects, public services and education.

If EPA adopts both proposals and entirely rescinds current methane pollution standards, by EPA’s own estimates it would result in 730,000 to 830,000 additional tons of methane from new sources through 2025. Not only is this contradictory to protecting citizens and our environment, it’s contradictory to many leading oil and gas companies’ own call for responsible, commonsense methane regulations to address energy waste and climate pollution.

Over the past two years, many of the undersigned local elected officials also signed multiple letters to the Interior Department, opposing the Bureau of Land Management’s rescission of its own rules to limit methane waste from oil and gas operations on federal land. The reasons are the same: we need to be strengthening, not weakening, federal standards that will cut down on
needless methane waste that cheats our taxpayers, pollutes our environment and threatens our public health.

We’re proud of the western states that have strengthened their resolve to reduce methane pollution and combat climate change in the midst of so many rollbacks of environmental safeguards at the federal level. Colorado for example, has already created strong, enforceable statewide standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and cut down on unnecessary methane waste, and New Mexico is currently in the processing of adopting its own protections against oil and gas pollution. We need these regulations now more than ever. Waste is not a western value, and EPA’s elimination of methane regulations – for the sole purpose of giving the oil and gas industry a break that many companies do not even want – is shamefully wasteful, lacks foresight, and is out of step with what American citizens want and deserve.

Sincerely,

Philbert Bailey  
San Xavier District Chairman  
Tohono O’odham Nation  
Arizona  

Austin Nunez  
San Xavier District Chairman  
Tohono O’odham Nation  
Arizona  

Phyllis Valenzuela  
San Xavier District Councilmember  
Tohono O’odham Nation  
Arizona  

Heidi Harmon  
Mayor, City of San Luis Obispo  
California  

Auden Schendler  
Basalt Town Councilor  
Colorado  

Deb Gardner  
Boulder County Commissioner  
Colorado  

Elise Jones  
Boulder County Commissioner  
Colorado  

Matt Jones  
Boulder County Commissioner  
Colorado  

Aaron Brockett  
Boulder City Councilor  
Colorado  

Cindy Carlisle  
Boulder City Councilor  
Colorado  

Suzanne Jones  
Mayor, City of Boulder  
Colorado  

Ben Bohmfalk  
Carbondale Town Trustee  
Colorado  

Heather Henry  
Carbondale Town Trustee  
Colorado  

Lani Kitching  
Carbondale Town Trustee  
Colorado  

Dan Richardson  
Mayor, Town of Carbondale  
Colorado
Marty Silverstein  
Carbondale Town Trustee  
Colorado

Erica Sparhawk  
Carbondale Town Trustee  
Colorado

Luis Yllanes  
Carbondale Town Trustee  
Colorado

George Marlin  
Clear Creek County Commissioner  
Colorado

Randy Wheelock  
Clear Creek County Commissioner  
Colorado

Melissa Youssef  
Mayor, City of Durango  
Colorado

Kathy Chandler-Henry  
Eagle County Commissioner  
Colorado

Jeanne McQueeney  
Eagle County Commissioner  
Colorado

Matt Scherr  
Eagle County Commissioner  
Colorado

Jennifer Carroll  
Mayor, Town of Erie  
Colorado

Geoff Deakin  
Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Erie  
Colorado

Bill Gippe  
Erie Town Trustee  
Colorado

Christiaan van Woudenberg  
Erie Town Trustee  
Colorado

Gail Watson  
Gilpin County Commissioner  
Colorado

Marjorie Sloan  
Mayor, City of Golden  
Colorado

Bennett Boeschenstein  
Former Mayor Pro Tem, City of Grand Junction  
Colorado

Jamie Harkins  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Lafayette  
Colorado

Stephanie Walton  
Lafayette City Councilor  
Colorado

Gwen Lachelt  
La Plata County Commissioner  
Colorado

Rachel Landis  
La Plata Electric Association Board Director  
Colorado

Polly Christensen  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Longmont  
Colorado

Joan Peck  
Longmont City Councilor  
Colorado
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connie Sullivan</td>
<td>Mayor, Town of Lyons</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Willford</td>
<td>Northglenn City Councilor</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Child</td>
<td>Pitkin County Commissioner</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Newman</td>
<td>Pitkin County Commissioner</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Poschman</td>
<td>Pitkin County Commissioner</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Anderson</td>
<td>Saguache County Commissioner</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilary Cooper</td>
<td>San Miguel County Commissioner</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kris Holstrum</td>
<td>San Miguel County Commissioner</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lance Waring</td>
<td>San Miguel County Commissioner</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karn Stiegelmeier</td>
<td>Summit County Commissioner</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lars Carlson</td>
<td>Telluride Town Councilor</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Murphy</td>
<td>Telluride Town Councilor</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Watkinson</td>
<td>Telluride Town Councilor</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Riegel</td>
<td>Teton County Commissioner</td>
<td>Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Mucke</td>
<td>Mayor, City of Louisville</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Karjala</td>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>Montana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrea Olsen</td>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>Montana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margie MacDonald</td>
<td>State Senator</td>
<td>Montana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Brekhus</td>
<td>Mayor, City of Reno</td>
<td>Nevada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Denish</td>
<td>Former Lt. Governor</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Garcia Richard</td>
<td>State Land Commissioner</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Joy Garratt
State Representative
New Mexico

Dayan Hochman-Vigil
State Representative
New Mexico

Georgene Louis
State Representative
New Mexico

Javier Martinez
State Representative
New Mexico

Matthew McQueen
State Representative
New Mexico

William Pratt
State Representative
New Mexico

Andrea Romero
State Representative
New Mexico

Andres Romero
State Representative
New Mexico

Patricia Roybal Caballero
State Representative
New Mexico

Angelica Rubio
State Representative
New Mexico

Debra Sarinana
State Representative
New Mexico

Nathan Small
State Representative
New Mexico

Liz Thomson
State Representative
New Mexico

Linda Trujillo
State Representative
New Mexico

Isaac Benton
Albuquerque City Councilor
New Mexico

Pat Davis
Albuquerque City Councilor
New Mexico

Diane Gibson
Albuquerque City Councilor
New Mexico

Tim Keller
Mayor, City of Albuquerque
New Mexico

Rosalyn Fry
Aztec City Commissioner
New Mexico

Mark Lewis
Aztec City Commissioner
New Mexico

Victor Snover
Mayor, City of Aztec
New Mexico

Maggie Hart Stebbins
Bernalillo County Commissioner
New Mexico
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debbie O’Malley</td>
<td>Bernalillo County Commissioner</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Ellins</td>
<td>Dona Ana County Commissioner</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Browne</td>
<td>Grant County Commissioner</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alicia Edwards</td>
<td>Grant County Commissioner</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Miyagishima</td>
<td>Mayor, City of Las Cruces</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gill Sorg</td>
<td>Mayor Pro Tem, City of Las Cruces</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabe Vasquez</td>
<td>Las Cruces City Councilor</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jody Benson</td>
<td>Former Secretary, Los Alamos School Board</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Tso</td>
<td>Navajo Nation Council Delegate</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GloJean Todacheene</td>
<td>San Juan County Commissioner</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Hansen</td>
<td>Santa Fe County Commissioner</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Holian</td>
<td>Former Santa Fe County Commissioner</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Maestas</td>
<td>Former Santa Fe City Councilor,</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Romero-Wirth</td>
<td>Former Mayor of Española</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renee Villarreal</td>
<td>Santa Fe City Councilor</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Webber</td>
<td>Mayor, City of Santa Fe</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Blankenhorn</td>
<td>Taos County Commissioner</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Evans</td>
<td>Taos Town Councilor</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debra March</td>
<td>Mayor, City of Henderson</td>
<td>Nevada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalen Jones</td>
<td>Moab City Councilor</td>
<td>Utah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenn J. Wright</td>
<td>Summit County Councilor</td>
<td>Utah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pete Gosar</td>
<td>Albany County Commissioner</td>
<td>Wyoming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pete Laybourn
Cheyenne City Councilor
Wyoming

Mark Newcomb
Teton County Commissioner
Wyoming

Luther Propst
Teton County Commissioner
Wyoming