

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 19, 2026

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Steve Pearce
Director
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum and Director Pearce,

We write to express our strong opposition to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposed rule to overturn the 2024 *Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation* rule (the "2024 Waste Prevention Rule"). Reversing these common-sense standards will waste publicly owned natural gas, cost the American people tens of millions in foregone revenue, and increase pollution on our public lands.

Between 2012 and 2021, operators wasted an estimated 300 billion cubic feet of natural gas on federal lands to flaring and venting, valued at nearly \$950 million, and resulting in a loss of between \$76 and \$135 million in potential taxpayer revenue.¹ Routine venting and flaring of natural gas are unnecessary and harmful, turning natural gas into a waste product instead of a valuable energy commodity.

In addition to creating this financial loss, rolling back the 2024 Waste Prevention Rule would reduce our domestic energy supply and expose nearby communities to avoidable health risks. Methane is a potent climate pollutant, trapping 20 times more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. In addition to methane, venting and flaring release volatile organic compounds that are carcinogenic, increase ground-level ozone, and lead directly to illness for both individuals and communities exposed.

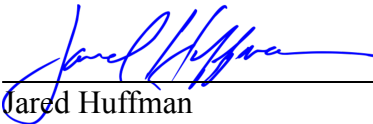
Energy-producing states across the country have already demonstrated that limiting venting and flaring is compatible with robust energy production. Colorado adopted regulations in 2020 and New Mexico in 2021 that ended almost all venting and flaring. In addition, many major oil and gas producers have voluntarily agreed to avoid routine flaring on new wells by 2030. Furthermore, cost-effective technologies to detect and reduce methane waste, such as satellite monitoring, drones, and infrared cameras, are widely used across the oil and gas industry. Reversing the 2024

¹ Taxpayers for Common Sense, [Gas Giveaways II: Methane Waste on Federal Lands is Business as Usual](#), August 30, 2022

Waste Prevention Rule would prolong years of regulatory uncertainty, penalizing proactive operators that have invested in efficient operations while rewarding those that have not.

We strongly urge BLM to reject this proposed rescission and maintain the 2024 Waste Prevention Rule. The oil and gas resources on these lands belong to the American public and Tribal nations, and they deserve to benefit from the full value and benefits of responsible resource stewardship.

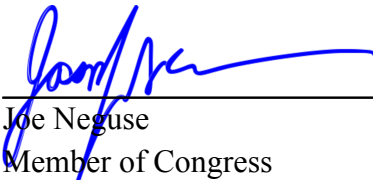
Sincerely,



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee
on Natural Resources



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



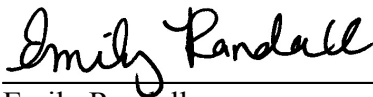
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



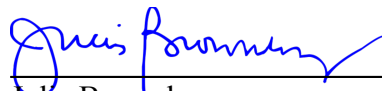
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



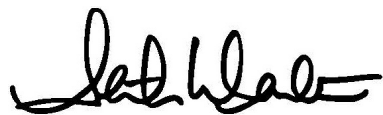
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



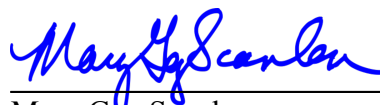
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



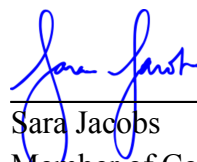
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



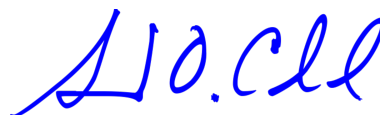
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Adenita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



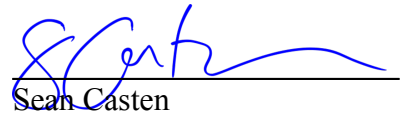
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



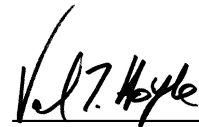
Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress