



Jack N. Gerard
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May 9, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

The American Petroleum Institute strongly supports H.J. Res. 36, providing for congressional disapproval under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)'s "Methane and Waste Prevention" rule. Methane emissions from our sector continue to fall, even as natural gas production nationwide has soared, making this redundant and technically flawed rule a solution in search of a problem. Furthermore, we share Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's commitment to reducing waste and ensuring a fair return for taxpayers, responsibilities that will continue to be within the Department's authority if the CRA resolution is passed into law.

According to data from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), methane emissions associated with the natural gas industry declined by 16 percent from 1990 to 2015 while natural gas production increased by 55 percent. These reductions were made possible by a combination of industry practices and technology innovations, along with existing regulation by the states and the EPA, which have jurisdiction over air quality issues under the Clean Air Act. This rule from BLM, an agency which lacks the authority and expertise to regulate air quality, is an unnecessary layer of federal regulation.

Carbon emissions from U.S. electricity generation are near 30-year lows largely as a result of the greater use of natural gas, demonstrating that energy security and environmental progress can be complementary goals. Forward thinking energy policy should look for ways to increase the production and use of U.S. natural gas, not impede it as the BLM rule will do.

We, therefore, call on Senators to vote in favor of using the CRA to disapprove this flawed rule. Leading the world in the refining and production of natural gas and oil is a significant achievement, but it's even more important to ensure U.S. energy security over the next several decades. We look forward to working with the Congress and the Department of the Interior to

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prioritize oil and natural gas production on federal and Indian lands to benefit the consumer, to enhance our nation's ability to further reduce emissions, to provide jobs, and to generate much-needed revenue for the federal Treasury.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Gerard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jack N. Gerard
President and CEO

Cc: Members of the U.S. Senate