

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
2007 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As you begin your work on the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to include language to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) from furthering their efforts through rulemakings and guidance regarding methane emissions from the oil and natural gas industry.

On June 25, 2013, President Obama announced a Climate Action Plan to reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses to prevent global warming. Following this announcement, federal agencies began redoubling their efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions. The oil and natural gas sector was targeted with new initiatives from the Obama Administration in September 2015 and February 2016 by the EPA and BLM respectively.

These efforts are unnecessary; given methane is a product this industry is in the business of selling, not wasting, but also because they're duplicative, costly, and detrimental to our economy. By EPA's own numbers, methane emissions have decreased while production has increased over the same time period. Please join me in urging the Appropriations Committee to prevent funding for these shortsighted regulatory actions.

While President Trump has these directives in his crosshairs, Congress ought not rely on the judiciary or executive processes to block these misguided and nefarious rules from the previous administration. It is the duty and responsibility of the House to prohibit funds for unlawful rules and regulations.

Section 439 of the engrossed version of the FY 2017 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill contained language which aimed to block these mandates. Accordingly, we ask that you include language similar to the following again this fiscal year:

SEC. ____. *None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used to develop, propose, finalize, implement or enforce—*

(1) any rule or guideline to address methane emissions from sources in the oil and natural gas sector under Sections 111(b) or (d) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411(b), 7411(d));

(2) any rule changing the term "adjacent" for purposes of defining "stationary source" and "major source" as applied to the oil and gas sector under the Clean Air Act; and


(3) the final "Control Techniques Guidelines for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry" released October 27, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 74798).

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership on the committee.

Sincerely,



Kevin Cramer, Member of Congress



Don Young, Member of Congress



Steve Pearce, Member of Congress




Paul Gosar, Member of Congress




Bill Flores, Member of Congress


Jody Hice, Member of Congress


Randy Weber, Member of Congress


Ted S. Yoho, DVM, Member of Congress


Tom McClintock, Member of Congress


Will Hurd, Member of Congress


Brian Babin, Member of Congress