

METHANE WASTE PREVENTION ACT OF 2021

DECEMBER 30, 2022.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GRIJALVA, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

DISSENTING VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 1492]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1492) to prevent methane waste and pollution from oil and gas operations, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 1492 is to prevent methane waste and pollution from oil and gas operations.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 authorizes the Department of the Interior (DOI) to lease the rights to develop oil and gas resources on federal land.¹ The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within DOI is the federal agency primarily responsible for managing oil and gas resources on U.S. public land. BLM administers more than 247 million acres of land and 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) cooperates with BLM in coordinating access to federal oil and gas resources on approximately one-third of the over 150 national forests and grasslands. The majority of onshore public oil and gas resources

¹ 30 U.S.C. 181, et seq.

are located and in the western United States, particularly California, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

Emissions associated with oil and gas development can degrade air quality and seriously impair public health.² Equipment leaks and intentional emissions releases lead to harmful pollution from ground-level ozone, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other hazardous and carcinogenic gasses like benzene.³ Methane, the primary component of natural gas, is often emitted at the sites of oil and gas development. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas (GHG) with approximately 25 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over a 100-year period. In 2018, methane accounted for 10 percent of all U.S. GHG emissions from human activities, with natural gas and petroleum systems being one of the largest sources.⁴

Oil and gas produced on public lands leads to significant carbon dioxide emissions. In November 2018, the U.S. Geological Survey released a report that found on an annual basis federal lands are responsible for nearly 25 percent of the nation’s carbon emissions. According to the report, oil and gas drilling is responsible for around 10 percent of total U.S. carbon emissions, and the federal coal program is responsible for roughly 13 percent.⁵

The intentional burning of natural gas at an oil or gas well site—also known as natural gas flaring—is a major issue in oil and gas producing regions such as the Permian Basin in New Mexico and the Bakken in North Dakota. Certain economic factors, like low natural gas prices, can lead to large amounts of flaring and limit the incentives for companies to voluntarily cut down on methane leaks. From an environmental perspective, flaring is preferred to emitting natural gas directly into the atmosphere, either intentionally or through leaks, but still wastes resources and contributes to methane emissions when incomplete combustion occurs.

In November 2016, BLM published the “Methane Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation” final rule, known as the ‘methane rule,’ to address the intentional release (venting), intentional burning (flaring), and leakage of natural gas from oil and gas facilities on federal and tribal land. The Trump administration tried to rescind the methane rule, but the effort was blocked by a federal judge in July 2020. Later, in October 2020, a different federal judge ruled that BLM overstepped its legal authority in promulgating the 2016 rule. The October 2020 case is under appeal, but since the ruling and as of the drafting of this report, the federal regulation of methane emissions on public and tribal lands has reverted to 1979 standards.

For years, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has faulted BLM for failing to accurately measure the amount of natural gas lost through venting and flaring on public land. In addition to the public health and climate impacts from methane emis-

²Werner, AK, Vink, S., et al., *Environmental health impacts of unconventional natural gas development: A review of the current strength of evidence*, Science of The Total Environment, Volume 505, 1 February 2015, Pages 1127–1141, available at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969714015290>.

³Lattanzio, Richard. “Methane and Other Air Pollution Issues in Natural Gas Systems.” *Congressional Research Service*. Nov. 5, 2018. <https://fas.org/spp/crs/misc/R42986.pdf>.

⁴“Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks Fast Facts and Data Highlights.” U.S. EPA. April 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/inventory-us-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-sinks-fast-facts-and-data-highlights>.

⁵Merrill, M., Sleeter, B., Freeman, P., Liu, J., Warwick, P., & Reed, B. (2018). Federal Lands Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sequestration in the United States: Estimates for 2005–14. USGS. <https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2018/5131/sir20185131.pdf>.

sions, the gas flared and vented into the atmosphere represents a loss of potential royalties owed to federal taxpayers. In 2011, GAO designated BLM's management of oil and gas resources as a program at high risk for fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in part because of this issue. As of 2019, BLM's oil and gas program was still considered high-risk by GAO.⁶

H.R. 1492, the Methane Waste Prevention Act, establishes requirements to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector. Outside of the Natural Resources Committee's jurisdiction, this legislation directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue regulations that require the sector to reduce methane emissions over time. By 2025, methane emissions must be at least 65 percent below 2012 emissions. By 2030, emissions must be at least 90 percent below 2012 emissions. Within the Natural Resources Committee's jurisdiction, H.R. 1492 directs DOI to establish regulations to reduce and prevent the waste of natural gas on federal and tribal lands, including waste from venting, flaring, and fugitive releases. The regulations must include enforcement mechanisms for any oil and gas operations that are not in compliance.

The Inflation Reduction Act, signed into law in August 2022, included a royalty on all extracted methane. Section 50263 of the legislation describes that any royalties that apply to gas produced on federal land will apply to vented and flared methane with exceptions for emergency situations, gas used on the lease area, and gas unavoidably lost.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 1492 was introduced on March 2, 2021, by Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO). The bill was referred the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Within the Natural Resources Committee, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources. On March 9, 2021, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On April 28, 2021, the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill.

The Subcommittee was discharged by unanimous consent. Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) offered an amendment designated Boebert #1. The amendment was not agreed to by a roll call vote of 19 yeas and 23 nays, as follows:

⁶“High-Risk Series: Substantial Efforts Needed to Achieve Greater Progress on High-Risk Areas.” *U.S. Government Accountability Office*. March 2019. <https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/697245.pdf>.

Date: April 28, 2021

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
117TH CONGRESS — ROLL CALL**

Bill / Motion: H.R. 1492

Amendment: Rep. Boebert #1 amendment

Disposition: Not agreed to by a roll call vote of 19 yeas and 23 nays.

	DEM. MEMBERS (26)	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT
1	Ms. Brownley, CA		X	
2	Mr. Case, HI		X	
3	Mr. Cohen, TN		X	
4	Mr. Costa, CA		X	
5	Ms. DeGette, CO		X	
6	Mrs. Dingell, MI		X	
7	Mr. Gallego, AZ		X	
8	Mr. Garcia, IL		X	
9	Mr. Grijalva, AZ (Chair)		X	
10	Mr. Huffman, CA		X	
11	Ms. Leger Fernández, NM		X	
12	Mr. Levin, CA		X	
13	Mr. Lowenthal, CA		X	
14	Ms. Matsui, CA		X	
15	Ms. McCollum, MN		X	
16	Mr. McEachin, VA			
17	Mrs. Napolitano, CA		X	
18	Mr. Neguse, CO		X	
19	Ms. Porter, CA		X	
20	Mr. Sablan, MP			
21	Mr. San Nicolas, GU		X	
22	Mr. Soto, FL		X	
23	Ms. Tlaib, MI		X	
24	Mr. Tonko, NY		X	
25	Ms. Trahan, MA		X	
26	Ms. Velázquez, NY			
	REP. MEMBERS (22)	Y	N	P
1	Mr. Bentz, OR	X		
2	Mrs. Boebert, CO	X		
3	Mr. Carl, AL	X		
4	Mr. Fulcher, ID	X		
5	Mr. Gohmert, TX			
6	Miss González-Colón, PR	X		
7	Mr. Gosar, AZ	X		
8	Mr. Graves, LA	X		
9	Ms. Herrell, NM	X		
10	Mr. Hice, GA	X		
11	Mr. Lamborn, CO	X		
12	Mr. McClintock, CA			
13	Mr. Moore, UT	X		
14	Mr. Oberholte, CA	X		
15	Mrs. Radewagen, AS	X		
16	Mr. Rosendale, MT	X		
17	Mr. Stauber, MN	X		
18	Mr. Tiffany, WI	X		
19	Mr. Webster, FL	X		
20	Mr. Westerman, AR (RM)	X		
21	Mr. Wittman, VA	X		
22	Mr. Young, AK			
	Total: 48 / Quorum: 16 / Report: 25	19	23	
	TOTALS	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT

Rep. Matt Rosendale (R-MT) offered an amendment designated Rosendale #1. The amendment was not agreed to by a roll call vote of 19 yeas and 23 nays, as follows:

Date: April 28, 2021

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
117TH CONGRESS — ROLL CALL**

Bill / Motion: H.R. 1492

Amendment: Rep. Rosendale #1 amendment

Disposition: Not agreed to by a roll call vote of 19 yeas and 23 nays.

	DEM. MEMBERS (26)	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT
1	Ms. Brownley, CA		X	
2	Mr. Case, HI		X	
3	Mr. Cohen, TN		X	
4	Mr. Costa, CA		X	
5	Ms. DeGette, CO		X	
6	Mrs. Dingell, MI		X	
7	Mr. Gallego, AZ		X	
8	Mr. Garcia, IL		X	
9	Mr. Grijalva, AZ (Chair)		X	
10	Mr. Huffman, CA		X	
11	Ms. Leger Fernández, NM		X	
12	Mr. Levin, CA		X	
13	Mr. Lowenthal, CA		X	
14	Ms. Matsui, CA		X	
15	Ms. McCollum, MN		X	
16	Mr. McEachin, VA			
17	Mrs. Napolitano, CA		X	
18	Mr. Neguse, CO		X	
19	Ms. Porter, CA		X	
20	Mr. Sablan, MP			
21	Mr. San Nicolas, GU		X	
22	Mr. Soto, FL		X	
23	Ms. Tlaib, MI		X	
24	Mr. Tonko, NY		X	
25	Ms. Trahan, MA		X	
26	Ms. Velázquez, NY			
	REP. MEMBERS (22)	Y	N	P
1	Mr. Bentz, OR	X		
2	Mrs. Boebert, CO	X		
3	Mr. Carl, AL	X		
4	Mr. Fulcher, ID	X		
5	Mr. Gohmert, TX			
6	Miss González-Colón, PR	X		
7	Mr. Gosar, AZ	X		
8	Mr. Graves, LA	X		
9	Ms. Herrell, NM	X		
10	Mr. Hice, GA	X		
11	Mr. Lamborn, CO	X		
12	Mr. McClintock, CA			
13	Mr. Moore, UT	X		
14	Mr. Obermole, CA	X		
15	Mrs. Radewagen, AS	X		
16	Mr. Rosendale, MT	X		
17	Mr. Stauber, MN	X		
18	Mr. Tiffany, WI	X		
19	Mr. Webster, FL	X		
20	Mr. Westerman, AR (RM)	X		
21	Mr. Wittman, VA	X		
22	Mr. Young, AK			
	Total: 48 / Quorum: 16 / Report: 25	19	23	
	TOTALS	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT

Rep. Pete Stauber (R-MN) offered an amendment designated Stauber #1. The amendment was not agreed to by a roll call vote of 19 yeas and 23 nays, as follows:

Date: April 28, 2021

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
117TH CONGRESS — ROLL CALL**

Bill / Motion: H.R. 1492

Amendment: Rep. Stauber #1 amendment

Disposition: Not agreed to by a roll call vote of 19 yeas and 23 nays.

	DEM. MEMBERS (26)	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT
1	Ms. Brownley, CA		X	
2	Mr. Case, HI		X	
3	Mr. Cohen, TN		X	
4	Mr. Costa, CA		X	
5	Ms. DeGette, CO		X	
6	Mrs. Dingell, MI		X	
7	Mr. Gallego, AZ		X	
8	Mr. Garcia, IL		X	
9	Mr. Grijalva, AZ (Chair)		X	
10	Mr. Huffman, CA		X	
11	Ms. Leger Fernández, NM		X	
12	Mr. Levin, CA		X	
13	Mr. Lowenthal, CA		X	
14	Ms. Matsui, CA		X	
15	Ms. McCollum, MN		X	
16	Mr. McEachin, VA			
17	Mrs. Napolitano, CA		X	
18	Mr. Neguse, CO		X	
19	Ms. Porter, CA		X	
20	Mr. Sablan, MP			
21	Mr. San Nicolas, GU		X	
22	Mr. Soto, FL		X	
23	Ms. Tlaib, MI		X	
24	Mr. Tonko, NY		X	
25	Ms. Trahan, MA		X	
26	Ms. Velázquez, NY			
	REP. MEMBERS (22)	Y	N	P
1	Mr. Bentz, OR	X		
2	Mrs. Boebert, CO	X		
3	Mr. Carl, AL	X		
4	Mr. Fulcher, ID	X		
5	Mr. Gohmert, TX			
6	Miss González-Colón, PR	X		
7	Mr. Gosar, AZ	X		
8	Mr. Graves, LA	X		
9	Ms. Herrell, NM	X		
10	Mr. Hice, GA	X		
11	Mr. Lamborn, CO	X		
12	Mr. McClintock, CA			
13	Mr. Moore, UT	X		
14	Mr. Obermole, CA	X		
15	Mrs. Radewagen, AS	X		
16	Mr. Rosendale, MT	X		
17	Mr. Stauber, MN	X		
18	Mr. Tiffany, WI	X		
19	Mr. Webster, FL	X		
20	Mr. Westerman, AR (RM)	X		
21	Mr. Wittman, VA	X		
22	Mr. Young, AK			
	Total: 48 / Quorum: 16 / Report: 26	19	23	
	TOTALS	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT

Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) offered an amendment designated Gosar #1. The amendment was not agreed to by a roll call vote of 19 yeas and 24 nays, as follows:

Date: April 28, 2021

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
117TH CONGRESS — ROLL CALL

Bill / Motion: H.R. 1492

Amendment: Rep. Gosar #1 amendment

Disposition: Not agreed to by a roll call vote of 19 yeas and 24 nays.

	DEM. MEMBERS (26)	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT
1	Ms. Brownley, CA		X	
2	Mr. Case, HI		X	
3	Mr. Cohen, TN		X	
4	Mr. Costa, CA		X	
5	Ms. DeGette, CO		X	
6	Mrs. Dingell, MI		X	
7	Mr. Gallego, AZ		X	
8	Mr. García, IL		X	
9	Mr. Grijalva, AZ (Chair)		X	
10	Mr. Huffman, CA		X	
11	Ms. Leger Fernández, NM		X	
12	Mr. Levin, CA		X	
13	Mr. Lowenthal, CA		X	
14	Ms. Matsui, CA		X	
15	Ms. McCollum, MN		X	
16	Mr. McEachin, VA			
17	Mrs. Napolitano, CA		X	
18	Mr. Neguse, CO		X	
19	Ms. Porter, CA		X	
20	Mr. Sablan, MP		X	
21	Mr. San Nicolas, GU		X	
22	Mr. Soto, FL		X	
23	Ms. Tlaib, MI		X	
24	Mr. Tonko, NY		X	
25	Ms. Trahan, MA		X	
26	Ms. Velázquez, NY			
	REP. MEMBERS (22)	Y	N	P
1	Mr. Bentz, OR	X		
2	Mrs. Boebert, CO	X		
3	Mr. Carl, AL	X		
4	Mr. Fulcher, ID	X		
5	Mr. Gohmert, TX			
6	Miss González-Colón, PR	X		
7	Mr. Gosar, AZ	X		
8	Mr. Graves, LA	X		
9	Ms. Herrell, NM	X		
10	Mr. Hice, GA	X		
11	Mr. Lamborn, CO	X		
12	Mr. McClintock, CA			
13	Mr. Moore, UT	X		
14	Mr. Obermole, CA	X		
15	Mrs. Radewagen, AS	X		
16	Mr. Rosendale, MT	X		
17	Mr. Stauber, MN	X		
18	Mr. Tiffany, WI	X		
19	Mr. Webster, FL	X		
20	Mr. Westerman, AR (RM)	X		
21	Mr. Wittman, VA	X		
22	Mr. Young, AK			
	Total: 48 / Quorum: 16 / Report: 25	19	24	
	TOTALS	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT

Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA) offered an amendment designated Graves #1. The amendment was not agreed to by a roll call vote of 18 yeas and 24 nays, as follows:

Date: April 28, 2021

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
117TH CONGRESS — ROLL CALL**

Bill / Motion: H.R. 1492

Amendment: Rep. Graves #1 amendment

Disposition: Not agreed to by a roll call vote of 18 yeas and 24 nays.

	DEM. MEMBERS (26)	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT
1	Ms. Brownley, CA		X	
2	Mr. Case, HI		X	
3	Mr. Cohen, TN		X	
4	Mr. Costa, CA		X	
5	Ms. DeGette, CO		X	
6	Mrs. Dingell, MI		X	
7	Mr. Gallego, AZ		X	
8	Mr. Garcia, IL		X	
9	Mr. Grijalva, AZ (Chair)		X	
10	Mr. Huffman, CA		X	
11	Ms. Leger Fernández, NM		X	
12	Mr. Levin, CA		X	
13	Mr. Lowenthal, CA		X	
14	Ms. Matsui, CA		X	
15	Ms. McCollum, MN		X	
16	Mr. McEachin, VA			
17	Mrs. Napolitano, CA		X	
18	Mr. Neguse, CO		X	
19	Ms. Porter, CA		X	
20	Mr. Sablan, MP		X	
21	Mr. San Nicolas, GU		X	
22	Mr. Soto, FL		X	
23	Ms. Tlaib, MI		X	
24	Mr. Tonko, NY		X	
25	Ms. Trahan, MA		X	
26	Ms. Velázquez, NY			
	REP. MEMBERS (22)	Y	N	P
1	Mr. Bentz, OR	X		
2	Mrs. Boebert, CO	X		
3	Mr. Carl, AL	X		
4	Mr. Fulcher, ID	X		
5	Mr. Gohmert, TX			
6	Miss González-Colón, PR	X		
7	Mr. Gosar, AZ	X		
8	Mr. Graves, LA	X		
9	Ms. Herrell, NM			
10	Mr. Hice, GA	X		
11	Mr. Lamborn, CO	X		
12	Mr. McClintock, CA			
13	Mr. Moore, UT	X		
14	Mr. Oberholte, CA	X		
15	Mrs. Radewagen, AS	X		
16	Mr. Rosendale, MT	X		
17	Mr. Stauber, MN	X		
18	Mr. Tiffany, WI	X		
19	Mr. Webster, FL	X		
20	Mr. Westerman, AR (RM)	X		
21	Mr. Wittman, VA	X		
22	Mr. Young, AK			
	Total: 48 / Quorum: 16 / Report: 25	18	24	
	TOTALS	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT

Rep. Boebert offered an amendment designated Boebert #2. The amendment was not agreed to by a roll call vote of 19 yeas and 24 nays, as follows:

Date: April 28, 2021

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
117TH CONGRESS — ROLL CALL**

Bill / Motion: H.R. 1492

Amendment: Rep. Boebert #2 amendment

Disposition: Not agreed to by a roll call vote of 19 yeas and 24 nays.

	DEM. MEMBERS (26)	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT
1	Ms. Brownley, CA		X	
2	Mr. Case, HI		X	
3	Mr. Cohen, TN		X	
4	Mr. Costa, CA		X	
5	Ms. DeGette, CO		X	
6	Mrs. Dingell, MI		X	
7	Mr. Gallego, AZ		X	
8	Mr. Garcia, IL		X	
9	Mr. Grijalva, AZ (Chair)		X	
10	Mr. Huffman, CA		X	
11	Ms. Leger Fernández, NM		X	
12	Mr. Levin, CA		X	
13	Mr. Lowenthal, CA		X	
14	Ms. Matsui, CA		X	
15	Ms. McCollum, MN		X	
16	Mr. McEachin, VA			
17	Mrs. Napolitano, CA		X	
18	Mr. Neguse, CO		X	
19	Ms. Porter, CA		X	
20	Mr. Sablan, MP		X	
21	Mr. San Nicolas, GU		X	
22	Mr. Soto, FL		X	
23	Ms. Tlaib, MI		X	
24	Mr. Tonko, NY		X	
25	Ms. Trahan, MA		X	
26	Ms. Velázquez, NY			
	REP. MEMBERS (22)	Y	N	P
1	Mr. Bentz, OR	X		
2	Mrs. Boebert, CO	X		
3	Mr. Carl, AL	X		
4	Mr. Fulcher, ID	X		
5	Mr. Gohmert, TX			
6	Miss González-Colón, PR	X		
7	Mr. Gosar, AZ	X		
8	Mr. Graves, LA	X		
9	Ms. Herrell, NM	X		
10	Mr. Hice, GA	X		
11	Mr. Lamborn, CO	X		
12	Mr. McClintock, CA			
13	Mr. Moore, UT	X		
14	Mr. Oberholte, CA	X		
15	Mrs. Radewagen, AS	X		
16	Mr. Rosendale, MT	X		
17	Mr. Stauber, MN	X		
18	Mr. Tiffany, WI	X		
19	Mr. Webster, FL	X		
20	Mr. Westerman, AR (RM)	X		
21	Mr. Wittman, VA	X		
22	Mr. Young, AK			
	Total: 48 / Quorum: 16 / Report: 25	19	24	
	TOTALS	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT

By unanimous consent, Ranking Member Bruce Westerman (R-AR) offered an amendment on behalf of Rep. Graves designated Graves #2. The amendment was not agreed to by a roll call vote of 18 yeas and 24 nays,⁷ as follows:

⁷Due to technical issues, Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) was unable to vote on the amendment to H.R. 1492 designated Graves #2. Rep. Boebert requested, after the closing of the vote, that the record reflect that had she been present she would have voted in favor of the adoption of Graves #2 to H.R. 1492.

Date: April 28, 2021

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
117TH CONGRESS — ROLL CALL

Bill / Motion: H.R. 1492

Amendment: Rep. Graves #2 amendment

Disposition: Not agreed to by a roll call vote of 18 yeas and 24 nays.

	DEM. MEMBERS (26)	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT
1	Ms. Browniey, CA		X	
2	Mr. Case, HI		X	
3	Mr. Cohen, TN		X	
4	Mr. Costa, CA		X	
5	Ms. DeGette, CO		X	
6	Mrs. Dingell, MI		X	
7	Mr. Gallego, AZ		X	
8	Mr. Garcia, IL		X	
9	Mr. Grijalva, AZ (Chair)		X	
10	Mr. Huffman, CA		X	
11	Ms. Leger Fernández, NM		X	
12	Mr. Levin, CA		X	
13	Mr. Lowenthal, CA		X	
14	Ms. Matsui, CA		X	
15	Ms. McCollum, MN		X	
16	Mr. McEachin, VA			
17	Mrs. Napolitano, CA		X	
18	Mr. Neguse, CO		X	
19	Ms. Porter, CA		X	
20	Mr. Sablan, MP		X	
21	Mr. San Nicolas, GU		X	
22	Mr. Soto, FL		X	
23	Ms. Tlaib, MI		X	
24	Mr. Tonko, NY		X	
25	Ms. Trahan, MA		X	
26	Ms. Velázquez, NY			
	REP. MEMBERS (22)	Y	N	P
1	Mr. Bentz, OR	X		
2	Mrs. Boebert, CO			
3	Mr. Carl, AL	X		
4	Mr. Fulcher, ID	X		
5	Mr. Gohmert, TX			
6	Miss González-Colón, PR	X		
7	Mr. Gosar, AZ	X		
8	Mr. Graves, LA	X		
9	Ms. Herrell, NM	X		
10	Mr. Hice, GA	X		
11	Mr. Lamborn, CO	X		
12	Mr. McClintock, CA			
13	Mr. Moore, UT	X		
14	Mr. Obermole, CA	X		
15	Mrs. Radewagen, AS	X		
16	Mr. Rosendale, MT	X		
17	Mr. Stauber, MN	X		
18	Mr. Tiffany, WI	X		
19	Mr. Webster, FL	X		
20	Mr. Westerman, AR (RM)	X		
21	Mr. Wittman, VA	X		
22	Mr. Young, AK			
	Total: 49 / Quorum: 16 / Report: 25	18	24	
	TOTALS	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT

The bill was adopted and ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by a roll call vote of 24 yeas and 19 nays, as follows:

Date: April 28, 2021

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
117TH CONGRESS — ROLL CALL**

Bill / Motion: H.R. 1492, Final Passage
Amendment:

Disposition: Final Passage: H.R. 1492 was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by a roll call vote of 24 yeas and 19 nays.

	DEM. MEMBERS (26)	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT
1	Ms. Brownley, CA	X		
2	Mr. Case, HI	X		
3	Mr. Cohen, TN	X		
4	Mr. Costa, CA	X		
5	Ms. DeGette, CO	X		
6	Mrs. Dingell, MI	X		
7	Mr. Gallego, AZ	X		
8	Mr. Garcia, IL	X		
9	Mr. Grijalva, AZ (Chair)	X		
10	Mr. Huffman, CA	X		
11	Ms. Leger Fernández, NM	X		
12	Mr. Levin, CA	X		
13	Mr. Lowenthal, CA	X		
14	Ms. Matsui, CA	X		
15	Ms. McCollum, MN	X		
16	Mr. McEachin, VA			
17	Mrs. Napolitano, CA	X		
18	Mr. Neguse, CO	X		
19	Ms. Porter, CA	X		
20	Mr. Sablan, MP	X		
21	Mr. San Nicolas, GU	X		
22	Mr. Soto, FL	X		
23	Ms. Tlaib, MI	X		
24	Mr. Tonko, NY	X		
25	Ms. Trahan, MA	X		
26	Ms. Velázquez, NY			
	REP. MEMBERS (22)	Y	N	P
1	Mr. Bentz, OR		X	
2	Mrs. Boebert, CO		X	
3	Mr. Carl, AL		X	
4	Mr. Fulcher, ID		X	
5	Mr. Gohmert, TX			
6	Miss González-Colón, PR		X	
7	Mr. Gosar, AZ		X	
8	Mr. Graves, LA		X	
9	Ms. Herrell, NM		X	
10	Mr. Hice, GA		X	
11	Mr. Lamborn, CO		X	
12	Mr. McClintock, CA			
13	Mr. Moore, UT		X	
14	Mr. Obermole, CA		X	
15	Mrs. Radewagen, AS		X	
16	Mr. Rosendale, MT		X	
17	Mr. Stauber, MN		X	
18	Mr. Tiffany, WI		X	
19	Mr. Webster, FL		X	
20	Mr. Westerman, AR (RM)		X	
21	Mr. Wittman, VA		X	
22	Mr. Young, AK			
	Total: 48 / Quorum: 16 / Report: 25	24	19	
	TOTALS	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT

HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing by the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held on March 9, 2021.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

This section states the bill may be referred to as the “Methane Waste Prevention Act of 2021.”

Section 2. Controlling methane emissions from the oil and natural gas sector

The goal of Section 2 is to reduce the quantity of methane emissions in the U.S. from the oil and natural gas sectors—from 65 percent below 2012 levels by 2025, and 90 percent below 2012 levels by 2030.

With the authority provided under section 111 of the Clean Air Act, this section directs the Administrator of the EPA to issue regulations to control methane emissions from the oil and gas sector to achieve the above goals. The regulations will apply to sources of methane from every segment of oil and natural gas systems, including production, processing, transmission, distribution, and storage.

To meet the goal for 2025, the Administrator shall finalize regulations no later than December 31, 2022, that include:

- Procedures for the establishment, implementation, and enforcement of standards for existing sources of methane as well as guidelines for States.
- A requirement that States submit plans to the Administrator for the reduction of methane emissions no later than 30 months after enactment of this Act.
- A requirement that the Administrator prescribe, not later than 42 months after enactment of this Act, a plan for States that fail to submit plans by the deadline specified, and a plan for States for which the Administrator disapproves the State plan.

To meet the goal for 2030, the Administrator shall finalize regulations no later than December 31, 2023, that include:

- Procedures for the establishment, implementation, and enforcement of standards for new and existing sources of methane emissions, and guidelines for States that include requirements for—
 - New and existing natural gas transmission and pipelines,
 - New and existing equipment that handles liquified natural gas,
 - New and existing offshore petroleum and natural gas production facilities, and
 - Any other source determined by the Administrator if it is necessary to achieve the national goal.

The Administrator shall ensure that any new distribution infrastructure is compatible with the distribution of hydrogen.

Section 3. Gas Waste Reduction and Enhancement of Gas Measuring and Reporting

This section amends Title I of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act by adding “Sec. 118. Gas Waste Reduction and Enhancement of Gas Measuring and Reporting.”

Subsection (a) of the new Sec. 118 describes regulations for preventing and reducing waste of gas via venting, flaring, and fugitive releases. Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall issue regulations that establish requirements for reducing and preventing the waste of gas, including by venting, flaring, and fugitive releases.

The regulations shall require:

- Capturing 85 percent of all gas produced on public lands one year after enactment of this Act.
- Capturing 99 percent of all gas produced each year from public lands five years after enactment of this Act.
- Gas should be flared, rather than vented, in all instances in which gas is not captured.
- Every application for a permit to drill an oil or gas well must demonstrate the ability to capture the required quantity of gas. The application must be published with a 30-day public comment period.
- No venting or flaring from new wells, effective two years after enactment of this Act.
- The operator of any operation on public lands that routinely flares gas must submit a gas capture plan to the Secretary not later than 180 days before new regulations take effect.
- Performance standards for newly installed equipment that minimizes gas loss from storage tanks, dehydrators, compressors, open-ended valves or lines, and any other equipment the Secretary determines appropriate.
- Operators must replace existing equipment within one year of the above performance standards.
- Performance standards based on modern procedures and equipment that minimize gas loss from downhole maintenance, liquids unloading, well completion, and any other procedures the Secretary determines appropriate.
- All operators must have leak detection programs with monthly inspections.
- Any leaks must be repaired promptly—within four weeks or eight weeks with a warranted extension.
- Records must be kept for equipment maintenance, leak detection and repair, venting events, flaring events, and any other operations the Secretary determines appropriate.

Subsection (b) of Sec. 118 outlines new gas measuring, reporting, and transparency requirements. Within one year of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue regulations requiring each operator to measure and report all gas produced, consumed on site, or lost through venting, flaring, or fugitive releases. The Secretary shall also issue regulations that require operators to install metering devices to measure flared gas, report volumes of gas flared, and values for fugitive releases. This data must be publicly available online.

Subsection (c) of Sec. 118 specifies that the requirements established by the Secretary will apply to the construction and operation

of any oil and gas activities on federal land, including refracturing of existing wells on or after the date of issuance of the regulations. Existing oil and gas operations have one year, unless otherwise specified, to come into compliance.

Subsection (d) of Sec. 118 describes regulations for enforcement for operations that are not in compliance. The Secretary shall establish enforcement mechanisms that include civil penalties for unauthorized venting and flaring which include production restrictions and monetary penalties equivalent to 15 times the market value of the vented gas, and three times the value of the flared gas.

Subsection (e) of Sec. 118 includes definitions for “capture,” “covered operations,” “flare and flaring,” “fugitive release,” “gas capture plan,” “gas release,” and “vent and venting.”

This section also includes a clerical amendment as well as requirements that the Secretary report on the volume of fugitive releases and vented and flared gas, and any additional regulations that would help further curtail methane emissions.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources’ oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

1. *Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act.* With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and with respect to requirements of clause (3)(c)(3) and clause 3(d) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has requested but not received a cost estimate for this bill from the Director of Congressional Budget Office. The Committee adopts as its own cost estimate the forthcoming cost estimate of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, should such cost estimate be made available before House passage of the bill.

The Committee has requested but not received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office a statement as to whether this bill contains any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goals and objectives of this bill are to prevent methane waste and pollution from oil and gas operations.

EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

An estimate of federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chair of the Committee shall cause such estimate to be printed in the *Congressional Record* upon its receipt by the Committee, if such estimate is not publicly available on the Congressional Budget Office website.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill's purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (new matter is printed in italics and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

FEDERAL OIL AND GAS ROYALTY MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1982

SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982".

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

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TITLE I—FEDERAL ROYALTY MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

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Sec. 118. Gas waste reduction and enhancement of gas measuring and reporting.

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TITLE I—FEDERAL ROYALTY MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

* * * * *

SEC. 118. GAS WASTE REDUCTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF GAS MEASURING AND REPORTING.

(a) REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTING AND REDUCING WASTE OF GAS VIA VENTING, FLARING, AND FUGITIVE RELEASES.—

(1) REQUIREMENT TO ISSUE REGULATIONS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Methane Waste Prevention Act of 2021, the Secretary shall issue regulations pursuant to the Secretary’s authority under the Mineral Leasing Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Indian Mineral Leasing Act of 1938, and other statutes authorizing the Secretary to regulate oil and gas activities on Federal land and Indian lands, that establish requirements for reducing and preventing the waste of gas, including by venting, flaring, and fugitive releases, from covered operations.

(2) CONTENT OF REGULATIONS.—The regulations shall, with respect to covered operations—

(A) require that, beginning not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Methane Waste Prevention Act of 2021, each operator captures at least 85 percent of all gas produced in each year from each onshore well that is subject to a mineral leasing law;

(B) require that, beginning not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of the Methane Waste Prevention Act of 2021, each operator captures at least 99 percent of all gas produced in each year from each onshore well that is subject to a mineral leasing law;

(C) require flaring of gas, rather than venting, in all instances in which gas is not captured;

(D) require that every application for a permit to drill a production well—

(i) demonstrate sufficient infrastructure and capacity is in place to capture the expected quantity of produced gas from the well; and

(ii) be published with an opportunity for a public comment period of at least 30 days;

(E) beginning not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Methane Waste Prevention Act of 2021, prohibit all new and refractured production wells from venting or flaring;

(F) require the operator of any covered operation that routinely flares gas before the effective date of a regulation prohibiting flaring issued pursuant to subparagraph (E) to submit a gas capture plan to the Secretary not later than 180 days before such effective date that ensures that such operator will meet the requirements described in subparagraphs (A) and (B);

(G) set performance standards for newly installed equipment based on modern equipment that minimize gas loss from—

(i) storage tanks;

(ii) dehydrators;

(iii) compressors;

(iv) open-ended valves or lines; and

(v) such other equipment as the Secretary determines appropriate to reduce and prevent gas release;

(H) require that operators replace existing equipment within one year of the publication date of performance standards established under subsection (G);

(I) require the replacement of all gas-actuated pneumatic controllers and pumps with nonemitting equipment not later than 180 days after the date of issuance of the regulation enacted under subparagraph (A);

(J) set performance standards based on modern procedures and equipment that minimize gas loss from—

(i) downhole maintenance;

(ii) liquids unloading;

(iii) well completion; and

(iv) such other procedures as the Secretary determines appropriate to reduce and prevent gas release;

(K) require all operators to have leak detection programs with monthly inspections that assess the entire covered operation using an infrared camera or other equipment with methods that provide overall at least equivalent sensitivity and effectiveness in detecting leaks on a timely basis;

(L) require any leaks found to be repaired promptly, and in any case not later than 4 weeks after the discovery of the leak, except where exceptional circumstances warrant an extension of not more than 8 additional weeks; and

(M) require recordkeeping for—

(i) equipment maintenance;

(ii) leak detection and repair;

(iii) venting events;

(iv) flaring events; and

(v) such other operations as the Secretary determines appropriate to reduce and prevent gas release.

(b) **GAS MEASURING, REPORTING, AND TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall, not later than one year after the date of enactment of the Methane Waste Prevention Act of 2021, issue regulations requiring each operator to measure and report, with respect to all gas subject to the mineral leasing laws, all such gas produced, consumed on site, or lost through venting, flaring, or fugitive releases.

(2) **MEASURING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—To account for all gas referred to in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall issue regulations requiring each operator to—

(A) install metering devices to measure all flared gas; and

(B) report to the Secretary the volumes of gas measured pursuant to the requirements of this subsection, including—

(i) all new measured values for production and disposition, including vented and flared volumes; and

(ii) values for fugitive releases based on guidelines for their calculation established by the Secretary in such regulations.

(3) **TRANSPARENCY.**—The Secretary shall make all new data produced under the requirements established by the Secretary under this subsection, including calculated fugitive releases and

volumes of gas lost to venting and flaring, publicly available through the internet—

(A) without a fee or other access charge;

(B) in a searchable, sortable, and down-load-able manner, to the extent technically possible; and

(C) as soon as technically practicable after the report by the operator is filed.

(c) *APPLICATION.*—Except as otherwise specified in this section, the requirements established by the Secretary under this section shall apply to—

(1) the construction and operation of any covered operation initiated, including the refracturing of existing wells, on or after the date of the issuance of regulations under this section; and

(2) after the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the issuance of such regulations, any covered operation initiated before the date of the issuance of such regulations.

(d) *ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall include in the regulations issued under this section consistent enforcement mechanisms for covered operations that are not in compliance with the requirements established by the regulations.

(2) *REQUIREMENTS.*—The Secretary shall include in the enforcement mechanisms described in paragraph (1)—

(A) civil penalties for unauthorized venting and flaring, which shall—

(i) apply in lieu of the penalties and related provisions under section 109; and

(ii) include production restrictions and civil monetary penalties equivalent to 15 times the market value of the vented gas and 3 times the value of the flared gas; and

(B) civil penalties that apply to noncompliance with other new or existing procedures, which shall—

(i) apply in addition to or in lieu of the penalties and related provisions under section 109;

(ii) include production restrictions or monetary penalties, or both; and

(iii) in the case of monetary penalties, be proportional to market conditions.

(e) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

(1) *CAPTURE.*—The term “capture” means the physical containment of natural gas for transportation to market or productive use of natural gas, and includes reinjection and royalty-free on-site uses.

(2) *COVERED OPERATIONS.*—The term “covered operations” means all oil and gas operations that are subject to mineral leasing law or title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (30 U.S.C. 1761 et seq.), regardless of size, including production, storage, gathering, processing, and handling operations.

(3) *FLARE AND FLARING.*—The terms “flare” and “flaring” mean the intentional and controlled burning of gas that occurs in the course of oil and gas operations to limit release of gas to the atmosphere.

(4) *FUGITIVE RELEASE.*—The term “fugitive release” means the unintentional and uncontrolled release of gas into the atmosphere in the course of oil and gas operations.

(5) *GAS CAPTURE PLAN.*—The term “gas capture plan” means a plan that includes specific goals, including equipment and timelines, for capturing, gathering, and processing gas produced under an oil or gas lease.

(6) *GAS RELEASE.*—The term “gas release” includes all gas that is discharged to the atmosphere via venting or fugitive release.

(7) *VENT AND VENTING.*—The terms “vent” and “venting” mean the intentional and controlled release of gas into the atmosphere in the course of oil and gas operations.

* * * * *

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, WASHINGTON
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

December 8, 2022

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva:

I write concerning H.R. 1492, the "Methane Waste Prevention Act of 2021," which was additionally referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 1492, the Committee agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee. The Committee takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. I also request that you support my request to name members of the Committee to any conference committee to consider such provisions.

Finally, I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter in the committee report on H.R. 1492.

Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
December 8, 2022
Page 2

- cc. The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources
The Honorable Jason Smith, Parliamentarian

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA OF ARIZONA
CHAIRMAN

DAVID WATKINS
STAFF DIRECTOR

BRUCE WESTERMAN OF ARKANSAS
RANKING REPUBLICAN

VIVIAN MOEGLEIN
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

December 8, 2022

The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr.
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Pallone:

I write to you concerning H.R. 1492, the "Methane Waste Prevention Act of 2021."

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I acknowledge that your Committee will not formally consider H.R. 1492 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that falls within your Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. Additionally, the Committee on Natural Resources confirms our mutual understanding that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that you may address any remaining issues within your jurisdiction. I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce to any conference committee to consider such provisions.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the report on H.R. 1492. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Chair
House Natural Resources Committee

Cc: The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources
The Honorable Jason Smith, Parliamentarian

DISSENTING VIEWS

H.R. 1492 would establish national goals to rapidly decrease methane emissions from the oil and natural gas sector, increase regulations on the volume of methane that can be vented or flared, codify the Obama-era Bureau of Land Management (BLM) methane rule, and instate exhaustive and unnecessary monitoring and reporting requirements. Committee Republicans are strongly opposed.

Methane emissions, including venting and flaring, have decreased significantly over the past few decades, even as production has increased. This has been achieved in the private sector, primarily through technological innovation. For example, U.S. emissions are 15 percent lower than they were in 1990, while production increased more than 50 percent during that time period.¹ Currently, less than 1 percent of natural gas is flared in the United States.² There is an inherent incentive for operators to vent or flare the smallest amount possible for safety and other necessary circumstances, as natural gas is the product that operators are trying to bring to market.³

In spite of the major progress made in the sector, this bill creates multiple new requirements, including the direction that within 1 year of enactment of the legislation 85 percent of produced gas must be captured, with 99 percent capture required within 5 years. Flaring is ultimately prohibited, and this legislation makes no exceptions for circumstances when appropriate infrastructure is not available to store the gas due to bureaucratic red tape, or even in cases of emergencies.

Another mechanism this legislation uses to try to reduce emissions is the codification of BLM's 2016 "Venting and Flaring Rule," also known as the Methane and Waste Prevention Rule, until new regulations are issued by BLM as directed by this legislation. The Trump administration revised the 2016 BLM rule on September 28, 2018.⁴ The original iteration of this rulemaking was overburdensome and duplicative of many existing state and federal regulations. It was also an example of executive overreach by the BLM, as the EPA has authority to regulate air emissions. Both the 2016 and 2018 rules were vacated in 2020 and the BLM reverted to the regulations in place before the 2016 rule was finalized.⁵

Natural gas is driving emissions reductions in the U.S. and advancements in technology have allowed the nation to meet our needs with reliable, affordable energy. The U.S. can reduce emis-

¹ <https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/460164-methane-emissions-continue-to-drop>.

² https://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_prod_sum_a_EPG0_FGW_mmcf_a.htm.

³ Western Energy Alliance. "Flaring." <https://legacy.westernenergyalliance.org/knowledge-center/air/flaring>.

⁴ <https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas/operations-and-production/methane-and-waste-prevention-rule>.

⁵ *Id.*

sions even further by investing in and expediting energy infrastructure; having additional pipelines available to capture produced gas reduces the need to vent or flare.⁶ Furthermore, pipelines are the safest and most efficient way to transport oil and gas, and the least likely to result in spills and personal injuries compared to road and rail.⁷

H.R. 1492 would make natural gas production on federal lands less competitive, incentivizing foreign imports, increasing global methane emissions, and potentially increasing the risk of spills due to overseas and over-ground transportation.

For these reasons, I oppose H.R. 1492.

BRUCE WESTERMAN.



⁶Western Energy Alliance. "Flaring." <https://legacy.westernenergyalliance.org/knowledge-center/air/flaring>.

⁷Diana Furchtgott-Roth. Manhattan Institute for Policy Research. "Pipelines Safest for Transportation of Oil and Gas." June 2013, https://media4.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/ib_23.pdf.