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**Groups to fight rollback of standards cutting
wasteful flaring and leaking of methane**

WORC statement on delay of Methane Waste Prevention rule

MANDAREE, N.D. - The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced today that it will file a [proposal](#) tomorrow to stall its Methane Waste Prevention rule until January 2019. The BLM Methane Waste Prevention rule requires oil and gas companies operating on federal and tribal lands to reduce preventable leaks and venting of methane, the primary component of natural gas.

In response to today's announcement, Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) board member Lisa DeVille, who is directly affected by the unnecessary and harmful waste of methane on the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota, issued the following statement:

“The West deserves better than this! Today's one year rule delay of the BLM Methane Waste Prevention Rule is not only disappointing, it also shows that Secretary Zinke and the Trump Administration are more concerned with catering to the oil and gas industry than curbing wasteful methane emissions from oil and gas wells on federal leases. The BLM Methane Waste Prevention Rule provides many benefits to communities in the West. These benefits include reduced emissions of harmful methane gas that impact air quality and climate, and increased revenues from royalties collected on captured gas. WORC and its groups throughout the West will continue to fight all efforts by Secretary Zinke and the Trump Administration to roll back the much needed protections provided by the BLM Methane Waste Prevention Rule.”

Based in Billings, Mont., the Western Organization of Resource Councils is a seven-state network of grassroots community organizations working to strengthen communities and shape policies on energy and agriculture.