

For immediate release  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Strong Air Quality Protections Gain Ground**

*Representative DeGette Introduces Legislation to Codify Methane Emission Rules*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Today, Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO) introduced the Methane Waste Prevention Act of 2019, which would enact common-sense methane emission standards that have been supported from both Western conservation groups and the oil and gas industry. The rules would prevent millions of dollars of natural gas from being needlessly flared or vented as well as protect the health of those who live and work near oil and gas production. The Western Organization of Resource Councils, Western Colorado Alliance, and Dakota Resource Council have been advocating for these common-sense rules, on behalf of their members impacted by oil and gas development, for the last decade.

The bill would codify the U.S. Bureau of Land Management’s Methane Waste and Prevention Rule and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s New Source Performance Standards finalized in 2016, and would take the BLM rule a step further by providing even higher standards to prevent waste from development on public lands.

“Under the current rules, oil and gas companies are allowed to vent, leak, or flare \$824 million dollars worth of publicly-owned natural gas into the air over the next decade. DeGette's bill will save Coloradans millions over the coming years while keeping the greenhouse gas, methane, out of our atmosphere,” said Rodger Steen, Western Colorado Alliance member from Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Lisa Deville, President of Fort Berthold POWER, an affiliate group of Dakota Resource Council, lives in the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota and has witnessed firsthand, the long-lasting effects of lax methane rules.

“I see venting, flaring, and leaks of natural gas every day on the Fort Berthold Reservation. The flaring, venting, and leaks damage our air, and also waste our finite natural resources. I can see with my own eyes how much gas is wasted and have experienced health effects from the methane emissions. Representative Diana DeGette’s bill is a crucial step forward in the fight to address climate change, protect public health, and cut methane waste and pollution.”

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*Western Colorado Alliance for Community Action brings people together to build grassroots power through community organizing and leadership development. We believe that right now, today, we have the ability and opportunity to create a future where engaged local voices are leading communities across Western Colorado that are healthy, just and self-reliant.*

*The Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) is a network of grassroots organizations that span seven of the Western states with more than 15,000 members. Many WORC members live on lands overlying and neighboring federal, tribal, state and privately owned oil and gas deposits, and experience impacts from federal oil and gas production. Headquartered in Billings, Montana, WORC also has offices in Colorado and Washington, D.C.*

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