

EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC)
Environmental Protection Agency
Mail Code 28221T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.
Washington, DC 20460.
Submitted Online

Re: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0204

August 1, 2016

Dear EPA Staff:

We the undersigned pro-life Christian leaders write to thank all of you at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for everything you do to protect the health of all Americans, especially children and the unborn. This includes your work on methane pollution from both new and existing sources. We are joined by nearly 92,000 pro-life Christians in offering our support for the EPA's efforts to reduce methane pollution.

This letter is a public comment on the need for information necessary to create effective standards under the Clean Air Act section 111(d) for existing sources in the oil and gas industry.

The reason we are submitting the public comment is because we want children to be born healthy and unhindered by the ravages of pollution even before they take their first breath. Studies have shown that smog, VOCs, and air toxics have a disproportionate impact upon life in the womb. Leaks in our natural gas infrastructure spew out smog precursors, as well as other toxic pollutants and cancer-causing agents like benzene.

We also want the unborn and those yet to be born to have a world free of dangerous climate change. Yet today from our natural gas infrastructure large amounts of methane are being released, a climate pollutant 86 times stronger than carbon dioxide at trapping heat over a 20-year timeframe. And it is what we do over the next 20 years that will determine whether our struggle to overcome climate change will be won or lost. That is why reducing methane is morally strategic.

We recognize the complexity involved in regulating hundreds of thousands of existing sources and determining the "best system of emission reduction" (BSER) as required by the Clean Air Act. The proposed information gathering from industry is essential to this task, and there is no time to lose.

Given this, we greatly appreciate the commitment President Obama made with Prime Minister Trudeau on March 10 to "move swiftly" to reduce methane pollution, and their reiteration of this commitment with Mexico's President Nieto on June 29.

As you strive to do so, keep these words from the Apostle Paul in mind: “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Gal. 6:9).

Sincerely,

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***Signatories do so as individuals; titles and organizations are given for identification purposes only.**