

August 1, 2016

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

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

As religious leaders, we are deeply concerned with climate change and its impact on all of God's creation. We write to thank you for your commitment to addressing methane pollution, and to urge you to continue this necessary, moral work.

We applaud the EPA for beginning the formal process of requiring the oil and gas industry to provide assistance in the development of comprehensive methane emissions reductions. The Information Collection Request (ICR) rule is an important first step in regulating existing sources of pollution.

Climate change is one of the great moral issues of our time. Methane, one dominant contributor to climate disruption, must be subject to even stricter government concern and action. Restrictions on methane emissions are a highly effective way of addressing climate change: a ton of methane in the atmosphere warms the climate more than 80 times as much as a ton of CO₂ during the first twenty years after release. In order to prevent the most devastating impacts of climate change we must address methane pollution. Reducing methane pollution can change the rate of warming over the next 20 years and moderate the near term impacts of climate change, which disproportionately affect low income people and other vulnerable populations.

Oil and gas sources also emit other dangerous pollutants that harm Americans' health, such as smog-forming volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and cancer-causing toxics like benzene. To protect public health, stronger methane pollution standards must include regulations on VOCs. The ICR is a moral step towards addressing the dire health implications, such as cancer and asthma, of methane leaks.

Today, we witness the heavy burden placed on those who are least responsible for climate change. As people of faith, we are called to care for children, the elderly, and low-

income communities. We believe that issuing national standards on existing methane sources in the oil and gas industry will help care for these vulnerable communities.

We applaud your leadership and urge you to continue to protect human health and the very creation that God created by working towards comprehensive regulations of existing methane pollution.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Northampton, MA
Rev. Sandy Straus, Pennsylvania Council of Churches, Harrisburg, PA
Rev. Dr. Daniel Carlson Shenectady, NY
Rev. J. Howard Cherry, Pittsburgh, PA
Rev. Margaret Hodgkins, Southport, CT
Rev. Lucretia Jevne, Vacaville, CA
Rev. Karen Moeschberger, Allentown, PA
Rev. Katherine Jesch, Portland, OR
Rev. Jean McCusker, Sioux Falls, SD
Rev. Peter Sawtell, Denver, CO
Rev. Lorenz & Rev. Barbara Schultz, Albany, OR
Rev. Mary Louise Allen, Ocean View, DE
Rev. Tom Fehr, Cincinnati, OH
Rev. Peggy Malnati, Farmington Hills, MI
Rev. Walter E. Phelps, Vacaville, CA
Rev. Stuart R. Shaw, Salem, OR
Rev. Raymond Brown, Selinsgrove, PA
Rev. Carol Niemi, Houston, TX
Rev. David Fouche, Winston-Salem, NC
Ms. Judy Stankewicz, Franklin, WI
Rev. Paul Metzloff, Dallas, PA
Mr. Shanda Mahurin, Spring Hill, FL
Rev. Sheri Randolph, Barstow, CA
Rev. Jeffrey Conlon, Worcester, MA
Rev. Holly Hallman, Issaquah, WA
Rev. Karl Jones, Minneapolis, MN
Rev. Martin Pable, Milwaukee, WI
Rev. Allyson Sawtell, Denver, CO
Rev. Catharine Cline, Tacoma, WA
Rev. Steve Brauner, Waianae, HI
Rev. Susan Anderson-Smith, Tucson, AZ
Rev. Anne Hall, Lopez Island, WA
Mrs. Ilse Peetz, Pearblossom, CA
Rev. Art Smoker, Mars Hill, NC
Rev. Betsy Sowers, South Weymouth, MA
Rev. Carol Devine, Versailles, KY
Rev. Dr. Ian Mevorach, Natick, MA
Rev. Allan B. Jones, Santa Rosa, CA

Rev. Mark Terwilliger, Clarks Summit, PA
Rev. Steven Fetter, Jeffersonville, IN
Pastor Paul Ziese, San Antonio, TX
Rev. Dr. Colleen Carroll, Joplin, MO
Robin Last Martin, TN
Rev. Melissa Engel, Douglas, AK
Rev. Ivy Gauvin, Bemus Point, NY
Rev. Alex Vishio, Baltimore, MD
Rev. Mark Meeks, Bailey, CO
Rev. Lynn Bozich Shetzer, North Canton, OH
Rev. James Rowe, Kingston, NY
Rev. Kristen Provost Switzer, Sandy Hook, CT
Rev. Jo Siders, Murphys, CA
Rev. Rebecca Barnes, Jeffersonville, IN
Pastor Ellen Schoepf, Williamston, MI
Rev. Charlotte Whiting, Lancaster, PA
Rev. Dr. Daniel Prechtel, San Pablo, CA
Rev. Megan Peglar, Fort Worth, TX
Rev. M. Lara Hoke, MA
Rev. Judith Stone, CA
Rev. Douglas Hunt, Haverford, PA
Rev. David Collins, Miami Springs, FL
Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian, Racine, WI
Rabbi Brett Isserow, Alexandria, VA
Rabbi Amy Schwartzman, McLean, VA
Cantor Michael Shocket, McLean, VA
Rabbi Jeffrey Saxe, McLean, VA
Cantor Rachel Rhodes, McLean, VA
Rabbi Stephanie Bernstein, McLean, VA
Rabbi Michael Holzman, Reston, VA
Rabbi Salomon Gruenwald, Denver, CO
Rev. Richard L Killmer, Yarmouth, ME
Rev. Christopher H. Bender, Pittsburgh, PA
Rev. Frank Edmands, Fort Thomas, KY
The Rev. Nick Utphall, Madison, WI
Sister Donna Zwigart, OSF, Glenshaw, PA
Rev. Cheryl Pynch, Philadelphia, PA
Sister Barbara Jean Donovan, OSF, Syracuse NY
Rev. Cynthia Crouner, Stroudsburg, PA
Rev. David Andrews, Wilmington, DE
Rabbi Malkah Binah Klein, Philadelphia, PA
Rev. Roberta Finkelstein, Wilmington, DE
Rev. Darcey Laine, Ithaca, NY
William McPherson, President Unitarian Universalist Voice for Justice Washington State
Rabbi Michael S. Beals, Wilmington, Delaware

Sr. Pamela Conte, OSF, Mount Vernon, NY
Rev. Elizabeth Baker-Smith, East Stroudsburg, PA
Rabbinic Pastor Ellen Stein Weaver, Philadelphia, PA
Rabbi Steven Fink, Oheb Shalom, Baltimore, MD
Rabbi Alison Kobey, Or Chadash, Damascus, MD
Cantor Rosalie Boxt, Temple Emanuel, Kensington, MD
Rabbi Tamar Grim, Mendota Heights, MN
Rabbi Debra Rappaport, Minneapolis, MN
Rabbi Aaron Weininger, Minnetonka, MN
Rabbi Mark Goodman, Denver Jewish Day School, Denver, CO
Rabbi Deborah Ruth Bronstein, Boulder, CO
Rabbi Danny Gottlieb, San Francisco, CA
Rabbi Shoshanah Conover, Chicago, IL
Rabbi Shoshanah Tornberg, Lafayette Hill, PA
Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller, San Francisco, CA
Rabbi Val Lieber, Brooklyn, NY
Rev. Linda Noonan, Philadelphia, PA
Rev. Kipp Gilmore-Clough, Philadelphia, PA
The Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade, PhD, Lewisburg, PA
Rabbi Daniel Swartz, Scranton, PA
Sister Mary Ann Smith, Pittsburgh, PA
Rev. Andy Bell, St. Petersburg, FL
Rev. Inge Williams, Shoemakersville, PA
Dr. Donald Morton, Wilmington DE
Rev. Patricia Downing, Trinity Episcopal Parish, Wilmington DE
Rev. Paula Maiorano, Unitarian Universalists of Southern DE
Sister Marlene Kline, Pittsburgh, PA
Rev. Dr. Gabriele Parks, State College, PA
Rev. Thomas C. Davis, New Castle Presbytery, DE
Rev. Julia A. Beall, Pastor, Palmyra, PA
Pat Lupo, OSB, Erie, PA
Rev. Dr. Silvester S. Beaman, Wilmington, Delaware
Rev. Dr. Kay S. Rader, Lancaster, PA
Mary Ann Lawson, Portland, ME
Rev. Cynthia E. Robinson, Newark, DE
Rev. Alison Cornish, Philadelphia, PA
Rev. Victoria Starnes, Rehoboth Beach DE
Rev. Lorelei Kay, Gallup, NM
Reverend Karen Bash, Albuquerque, NM
Rev. Vern Rempel, Denver, CO
Rev. Gary Kowalski, Taos, NM
Sr. Joan Brown, OSF, Exec. Director New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light, Albuquerque, NM

Rt. Rev. Joel Garner, Albuquerque, NM
Rev. Gene Greis, Albuquerque, NM
Rev. Sue Joiner, Albuquerque, NM
Rev. Brendalyn Bachelor, Santa Fe, NM
The Rev. Holly Beaumont, Director, Interfaith Worker Justice - NM
Rabbi Paul J. Citrin, Taos, NM
Council President Anthony Harkness, St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM
Bill Bright, Leader, Baha'i Faith, Gallup, NM
Rev. Lynn R. Anner-Bolieu, Navajoland, NM
Barbara O'Connor, OFS, 3rd Order Secular Franciscan, Formation and Regional Area Rep, NM
Rev. Kay Huggins, Interim Executive Director, New Mexico Conference of Churches
Rabbi Neil Amswych, Santa Fe, NM
Rev. H. Blaine Wimberly, Santa Fe, NM
Rev. Dr. Stephen J. Miller, Albuquerque, NM
Barbara Brandt, Morning Light Sanga (Buddhist), Gallup, NM
Fr. Richard Rohr, O.F.M., Center for Action and Contemplation, Albuquerque, NM
Rev. Dr. Bert Scott, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Sr. Marlene Perrote, RSM, Albuquerque, NM
Pastor Nick King, Carlsbad, NM
Minister Todd Wynward, Taos, NM
Pastor Theda Good, Denver, CO