February 3, 2017

Dear Member of Congress:

We are religious organizations of diverse theological and political backgrounds. We are united by our shared commitment to responsible environmental stewardship and protection of the common good.

We write to urge you to uphold the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Methane and Natural Gas Waste Rule, a rule that not only curbs methane waste on public lands but safeguards human health and protects God’s creation. We urge you to vote no on the BLM Methane CRA Resolution.

The BLM rule is a common sense policy that requires the oil and gas industry to reduce venting, flaring, and leaks at industry operations on public and tribal lands by deploying available technology. Currently, more than $330 million worth of natural gas is wasted on public and tribal lands each year. This is not good stewardship of the resources God has provided.

Oil and gas sources also emit other dangerous pollutants that harm Americans’ health, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are precursors to ozone formation (smog). Wasteful practices only increase this pollution. Repealing this rule would harm public health and reduce revenue to the federal government and Western states.

We request that you vote in opposition to this egregious attack on commonsense standards which protect the God’s creation and the common good. Vote no on the BLM Methane’s CRA Resolution.

Sincerely,
Arizona Interfaith Power & Light
California Interfaith Power & Light
Climate Action Network, Central Pacific Conference, United Church of Christ
Colorado Council of Churches
Delaware Interfaith Power & Light
Delaware Ecumenical Council for Children and Families
Disciples Center for Public Witness, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Earth Justice Ministries in Nevada City, California
Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light
Eco-Justice Ministries
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Episcopal Church in Navajo Land
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Florida Council of Churches
Franciscan Action Network
Friends Committee on National Legislation
GreenFaith
Iowa Interfaith Power & Light
Interfaith Climate Group of Gainesville, Florida
Interfaith Power & Light
Jewish Climate Action Network
Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States
Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light
Michigan Interfaith Power & Light
Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance
New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light
North Carolina Council of Churches
North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light
Catholic Diocese of Gallup, NM, Office of Life, Justice, Peace and Creation Stewardship
Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
Por La Creación
Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light
Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ
The United Methodist Church-General Board of Church and Society
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
Voices for Earth Justice of Southfield, MI
West Virginia Interfaith Power & Light
Wisconsin Council of Churches
Wisconsin Interfaith Power & Light
Wyoming Council of Churches