



CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Justice for God's planet and God's people.

For Immediate Release

For more information please contact:
Shantha Ready Alonso (202) 618-2501

September 18, 2018

Creation Justice Ministries Opposes Gutting of Methane Waste Rule *Rescinding of Provisions in 2016 Methane Waste Rule is Dangerous for Environment*

Washington, D.C. —Today the Bureau of Land Management [pre-published a rule rescinding most provisions of its 2016 methane waste rule](#). The original rule mandated that oil and gas companies that operated on public lands had to take reasonable measures to prevent the waste of publicly owned natural gas. The loosening of this rule makes it easier to shield fossil fuel companies from the costs of corporate responsibility regarding waste of energy, public health hazards, and damage to our climate.

Creation Justice Ministries strongly opposes the rollbacks in the Methane Waste Rule as the resulting public health hazards and damage to all of God's creation is severe. This decision by the Secretary Zinke will harm taxpayers, waste American energy, and pollute our air.

Pastor Jim Therrien of Lybrook Community Ministries in Counselor, New Mexico said of the announcement, "The Trump Administration's choice to roll back vital health-protecting BLM methane pollution standards is a blow to our community, which is surrounded by oil and gas production sites. Indigenous children and elders will suffer first and worst consequences of this reckless decision. Decision-makers who pushed this roll-back forward in spite of our protest should be morally ashamed that they are partially responsible for the asthma, cancers, skin rashes, and other health burdens our community bears."

Additionally, Shantha Ready Alonso, Executive Director of Creation Justice Ministries noted, "Religious communities have repeatedly called on the Trump Administration to protect clean air and exercise responsible fiscal stewardship, according to the campaign promises that were made. Weakening the BLM methane pollution standards does the reverse. Not only will communities lose millions of dollars in royalty revenue that could have gone toward schools, roads, or libraries; we will also bear public health and climate burdens from this short-sighted policy."

Creation Justice Ministries is extremely disappointed in this decision to side with oil and gas interests instead of the bipartisan Congressional opposition and half-million Americans who vocalized their opposition of this decision. As stewards of this earth, it is our obligation to protect the environment and this new ruling does the opposite.

Creation Justice Ministries represents the creation care and environmental justice policies of major Christian denominations throughout the United States. We work in cooperation with 38 national faith bodies, including mainline Protestant, Black Church, Peace Church, and Orthodox communions.