

President Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Sally Jewell
Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

November 30, 2016

Dear President Obama and Secretary Jewell:

Thank you for your Administration's new Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Methane Waste Standard.

As people of faith, we believe in good stewardship of all the gifts of God's creation. We consider it part of practicing our faith to counteract wasteful attitudes and behaviors, which Pope Francis call "throwaway culture."

As our communities learned of the methane waste problem, we found it shocking how much leaked, vented, and flared natural gas is lost from oil and gas operations. Many states count on revenue from these operations to fund projects that care for the common good, including schools and roads. Yet, oil and gas companies allow methane, a finite gift of God's creation, to waft into the air. This not only pollutes our air, but it also endangers our health and harms our climate. It also sends millions of dollars in potential earnings for the companies and tax revenue for our communities up in smoke.

For our communities' health, the wellbeing of our climate, companies' bottom line, and states' budgetary sustainability, the new BLM Methane Waste Standard is an excellent step in the right direction.

With Gratitude,

WESTERN LEADERS
Adrian Miller, Executive Director
Colorado Council of Churches
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Chesie Lee, Executive Director
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Sr. Joan Brown, osf, Executive Director
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NATIONAL LEADERS
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Gerry Lee, Director
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