



February 22, 2018

Honorable Senator Cory Gardner  
354 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

*Mayor*  
Dick White

**RE: Vote to Uphold BLM Methane and Waste Prevention Rule**

*Mayor Pro Tem*  
Sweetie Marbury

Dear Senator Gardner:

*Councilors*  
Melissa Youssef  
Dean Brookie  
Chris Bettin

On behalf of the residents of Durango, the Durango City Council is requesting your leadership and continued support to uphold the Bureau of Land Management's Methane and Waste Prevention Rule. As a member of the Colorado delegation, your position on this issue is unique. No state has more experience with the benefits of capturing fugitive methane emissions from oil and gas operations than Colorado. The BLM's rule, which is modeled after Colorado's long-standing regulations, helps reduce harmful methane emissions that contribute to climate change, while instituting standards that make economic sense.

*City Manager*  
Ron LeBlanc

The rule updates 30-year old regulations governing venting, flaring, and leaks of natural gas, it helps curb waste of public resources, reduces harmful methane emissions, and levels the playing field for states like Colorado that have already adopted more stringent regulations. The Rule ensures that industry is abiding by the same standards independent of the state they are operating. For the Four Corners Region, it helps mitigate the harmful effects of fugitive methane emission which degrade local air quality and contribute to the methane hotspot that plagues the Southwest Region.

The Rule also ensures that taxpayers are benefiting from the full value of their natural gas resources. Absent of the Rule, instead of capturing and capitalizing on natural gas resources derived from federal and tribal lands, taxpayers are losing \$330 million annually in gas that is being released directly into the atmosphere. This equates to millions of dollars in lost severance tax revenue for local communities.

The Methane and Waste Prevention Rule is an example of common-sense regulation that benefits producers, taxpayers, and the environment. Your leadership and support on this issue is crucial. Should the Senate consider the Congressional Review Act repealing this valuable rule, we would urge you to vote to uphold the Rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard E. White".

Richard E. White, Ph.D.  
Mayor

CC: Durango City Council  
Ron LeBlanc, City Manager  
Ann McCoy Harold, Field Representative for Senator Cory Gardner