



## **WESTERN LEADERS NETWORK APPLAUDS HOUSE VOTE TO REINSTATE EPA METHANE POLLUTION PROTECTIONS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 25, 2021

**CONTACT:** Gwen Lachelt, [gwen@westernleaders.org](mailto:gwen@westernleaders.org), 505-469-0380

Jessica Pace, [jess@westernleaders.org](mailto:jess@westernleaders.org), 615-294-2049

### **STATEMENT OF GWEN LACHELT, WESTERN LEADERS NETWORK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON US HOUSE CRA VOTE:**

Federal oversight of methane emissions is the only way we can achieve national climate goals and protect our public health. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas about 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide and responsible for [25 percent of the climate change impacts](#) we are experiencing today. For western communities like ours, those impacts come in the form of extreme heat and drought, the destruction of wildlife habitat, poor air quality and depleted water resources. This consequently affects our farming and ranching communities, outdoor recreation economies and our quality of life.

Today's bipartisan vote, in conjunction with the U.S. Senate vote earlier this spring, restores Obama-era EPA pollution protections and is a win for communities across the West. I appreciate our federal leadership's bold action. With this critical first step taken, now the Biden administration must pursue stronger standards for methane pollution to protect our public health, our economies and our environment.

### **Background**

With bipartisan support, today the U.S. House of Representatives voted 229-191 in favor of a Congressional Review Act resolution to reinstate federal safeguards to reduce methane pollution from the oil and gas industry.

Prior to 2020, the industry was required under Obama-era regulations to update its equipment and conduct periodic inspections for leaks and malfunctions to reduce unnecessary pollution. But the Trump administration, in its final days, directed the EPA to remove federal air pollution limits from oil and gas transmission and storage facilities. By EPA's own estimates, this move would increase climate-warming methane emissions by 850,000 tons by 2030.

Today's House vote, in conjunction with a companion resolution passed in April by the U.S. Senate, puts pre-2020 pollution protections back in place.

###

**Western Leaders Network**

1309 East 3rd Avenue • Suite 22 • Post Office Box 4433 • Durango, Colorado 81302

970-317-4264 • [westernleaders.org](http://westernleaders.org)