



January 10, 2024

The Honorable Bill Johnson, Chair
The Honorable Paul Tonko, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, & Critical Materials
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Tonko:

The American Lung Association strongly supports federal actions to reduce methane. We have joined dozens of public health, medical, health care and nursing organizations in urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to adopt stringent emissions reductions from new and existing oil and gas operations. We celebrated the recently finalized Clean Air Act standards for new, reconstructed, modified and existing sources.

Methane is a powerful accelerator of climate change. Climate change is harming public health by increasing the severity and frequency of extreme weather, wildfires and record-breaking heat, the risk of exposure to vector-borne diseases and more. And methane is not the only emission coming from oil and gas operations. Volatile organic compounds released alongside methane can cause an array of health harms, including cancer. The Lung Association supports the final EPA methane rule and opposes any legislative efforts to undermine, delay or dismantle the standards. Enclosed are comments that the health and medical community submitted to EPA detailing the health imperative for a strong final rule.

In addition to the recently finalized EPA methane rule under to section 111 of the Clean Air Act, the American Lung Association supported the inclusion of the Methane Emissions Reduction Program in the Inflation Reduction Act. This program was designed to complement the EPA section 111 rule and provides funding to oil and gas operators to reduce their methane emissions. Once implemented, operators complying with the section 111 rules and accurately report emissions will be in compliance with the program. If they do not, they will be held accountable for their emissions.

We urge members of the subcommittee to oppose any efforts to undermine programs to reduce methane emissions, both because of the urgency of climate change and the health benefits that communities across the country will experience thanks to reduced pollution from the oil and gas sector.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold P. Wimmer".

Harold P. Wimmer
President & CEO

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