



Ohio Sustainable Business Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mayda Sanchez, 614-886-7119, msanchez@ohiosbc.org

States Should Work to Exceed Methane Standards, Not Avoid Them

(Columbus, Ohio – August 4, 2016) A [group of states](#) -- including West Virginia, Alabama and the Attorney General of Michigan -- and a group of [oil and gas industry associations](#) -- including the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) -- are asking the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to block vital climate change and public health protections that will reduce methane and smog-forming pollution from the oil and gas industry.

The group of 14 states and state agencies, the IPAA and other groups, and the [Western Energy Alliance](#) filed petitions challenging the standards with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. They join the states of [Texas](#) and [North Dakota](#) which also petitioned to block the recently finalized emissions safeguards.

“The standards set a standard of stewardship for the oil and gas industry that reduces wasted energy and methane pollution that is driving major changes in our climate. The standards will also minimize other pollutants that harm public health. We are disappointed to see the state of Ohio and industry groups using resources to challenge these commonsense protections, when they should be working to make the industry operate more efficiently and responsibly to exceed the standards.” said Mayda Sanchez, Executive Director at the Ohio Sustainable Business Council. “Some industry operators are already using cost-effective methane capture technologies, but many are not, so the standards are needed. Responsible stewardship of our finite natural resources and protecting America’s air and climate should be an industry priority.”

Methane is the main ingredient in natural gas, and a common byproduct of oil production. It has more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over a 20-year time frame. Yet it is also an energy resource that should not be wasted.

The oil and gas industry is the largest source of methane pollution in the nation. The industry currently pumps almost 10 million metric tons of methane into the air each year from leaks and other releases. That wasted gas is worth almost \$2 billion, and is enough to supply seven million American homes.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized new standards for methane emissions from the oil and gas industry in June, after detailed scientific and legal review and an extensive public comment period. The standards are based on leading programs in states like Colorado and Wyoming. They constitute one of the most cost-effective and important opportunities we have today to slow the pace of climate change.

The standards will have the same 20-year climate benefit as closing 11 coal-fired power plants or taking 8.5 million cars off the road. EPA estimates they will eliminate 210,000 tons of volatile organic



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compounds and 3,900 tons of air toxics a year by 2025, and will deliver annual climate benefits of \$690 million.

The methane mitigation industry offers a number of cost-effective technologies to prevent, control and monitor methane. There are [16 companies operating in Ohio](#), creating good paying jobs to Ohioans, while enabling the industry to harvest energy responsibly.

The standards have won wide support among Americans. More than 800,000 people, including business, religious, environmental, health, and community leaders have weighed in [supporting these vital protections](#).

You can read more at the OSBC's website at <http://osbcouncil.org>

About the Ohio Sustainable Business Council

The [Ohio Sustainable Business Council](#) advocates for policy change and informs business owners and the public about the need and opportunities for building a vibrant, sustainable economy. It represents Ohio business owners, executives and investors from a wide range of industries that are mindful of sustainable practices.

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Link: [States Should Work to Exceed Methane Standards, Not Avoid Them](#)