

# **National Hispanic Leadership Agenda**

## MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

March 16, 2017

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

*Re: BLM Methane and Natural Gas Waste Rule*

Dear Members of the United States Senate,

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the use of the Congressional Review Act (CRA) on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Methane and Waste Prevention Rule. The common sense BLM rule curbs the wasteful practice of venting and flaring methane on our public lands. It will cut natural gas waste, help ensure a fair return to local governments and the taxpaying public, will put our energy resources to good use, and will clean up our air.

The CRA is a blunt tool that, if successful, would prevent any "substantially similar" rule from ever being issued. If the BLM rule is blocked, the oil and natural gas industry will be able to continue wasting over \$330 million of worth of taxpayer owned resources every year. Industry will continue polluting our air with smog forming pollutants that increase the risk of asthma in children, and they will continue using outdated, wasteful technologies across our public lands.

As Latinos, the issues that the BLM rule addresses are close to our hearts and communities. Latinos are on [ground zero](#) of environmental degradation and are disproportionately impacted by pollution and toxic exposure. For those reasons and others, encouraging greenhouse gas standards, such as methane pollution standards for the oil and gas industry are included in our National Hispanic Leadership Agenda [2016 Policy Agenda](#).

The states where the BLM methane rule will have the most meaningful impact - New Mexico, Nevada, and Colorado - are among the states with the highest Latino populations. These communities already face outsized threats to their health, and dangerous methane pollution leaking from our public lands only worsens those conditions within the Latino community.

Additionally, the transition away from methane and natural gas presents significant opportunity for the Latino community, not only to improve its health and reduce its vulnerability but also to increase access to jobs in the green energy sector.

This common sense rule has strong bipartisan support among the public. A [nonpartisan poll](#) by Latino Decisions found that 70 percent of Latinos in key states support aggressive stance on global warming or climate change. In addition, the Colorado College found that 80 percent of Westerners support action to cut natural gas waste on public lands, and a broad and diverse array of Western stakeholders supported the BLM methane waste rule.

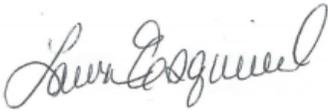
Alianza Americas  
American G.I. Forum  
ASPIRA Association  
Avance Inc.  
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute  
Farmworker Justice  
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities  
Hispanic Federation  
Hispanic National Bar Association  
Inter-University Program for Latino Research  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement  
Latino Justice PRLDEF  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
MANA, A National Latina Organization  
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund  
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives  
National Association of Hispanic Publications  
NALEO Educational Fund  
National Association of Latino Independent Producers  
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.  
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National Hispanic Media Coalition  
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National Puerto Rican Coalition  
Presente.org  
SER Jobs for Progress National  
Southwest Voter Registration Education Project  
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
United States Hispanic Leadership Institute  
United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce  
U.S.- Mexico Foundation  
Voto Latino

We strongly urge you to oppose using the Congressional Review Act to gut the BLM's Methane and Waste Prevention rule. We are asking that you stand up for the rule and stand up for Latino communities across the West and across the country.

Sincerely,



Hector E. Sanchez,  
Chair, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA)  
Executive Director,  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)



Laura Esquivel  
Co-Chair, NHLA's Energy and Environment Committee  
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Director of Occupational and Environmental Health, Farmworker Justice