



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE DISAGREES WITH THE US SENATE ON METHANE RULE CHANGE

The U.S. Senate voted on Wednesday to approve a measure to rescind the Trump EPA rule that removed methane, an alleged green-house gas, from regulation as a pollutant. Democratic Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer called this move a "big deal" in fighting climate change. The Senate approved the measure in a 52-42 vote. Schumer, along with fellow Democrats Martin Heinrich and Ed Markey and Independent Angus King, introduced their resolution in the Senate under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), a 1996 law that allows Congress to reverse federal rules implemented in the last days of a past administration with a simple majority. Three Republican senators, Susan Collins, Lindsey Graham and Rob Portman, also voted for the measure.

This action essentially reinstates the 2012 and 2016 New Source Performance Standards for Oil and Natural Gas under Quad O and Quad 0a of the Clean Air Act. The Biden EPA had planned to introduce a new "methane rule" in September, but the use of the CRA to rescind the Trump rule significantly complicates this effort. The CRA requires that any new replacement regulation that would be passed cannot be "substantially similar" to the one already repealed under the CRA without explicit Congressional approval. A new strictly "methane" rule would not pass that test.

The Trump Administration's amendments had not only followed the text of the Clean Air Act, but also significantly reduced regulatory burden to the industry and streamlined other requirements. Under the Trump rule, protection of human health and the environment would have continued through controls for smog-forming volatile organic compounds for the production and processing segments of the industry, reducing methane at the same time. The CRA action on this rule represents another of the Biden administration's measures to eliminate fossil fuels under the Green New Deal.

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DEPA believes abundant, reliable, affordable, domestic energy is key to revitalizing the US economy and reshoring US businesses after the COVID crises. We are happy to work with the administration and Congress on real world solutions to providing Americans the energy they need, while being protective of human health and the environment.

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DEPA is an alliance of producers, royalty owners, and oilfield service companies as well as state and national independent oil and gas associations representing the small businessmen and women of the energy industry, devoted to the survival of U.S. domestic crude oil and natural gas exploration and production.