



**COLORADO**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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February 16, 2017

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Congressional Review Act—Repeal BLM's Venting and Flaring Rule

Dear Senator Bennet:

The Board of Mesa County Commissioners submits this Letter to respectfully urge you to repeal the Bureau of Land Management's current methane flaring rule.

This rule, if not overturned, will cost the oil and gas industry substantially and could have far-reaching negative effects on production in Mesa County, which is 72 percent federal lands and is surrounded by areas abundant with natural resources.

Recently the BLM stated that the capture of lost payer revenue would approximately equal \$3 million, but the cost to the oil and gas industry would realistically range anywhere from \$300 million to \$900 million. The rule would further hinder our economy by discouraging investment and natural gas production on federal lands, which already has been declining.

The BLM rule requiring companies to control emissions on federally managed public land is redundant, and the estimated reduction of greenhouse gases is 0.0019. Clearly, the rule's cost outweighs the benefit.

In addition, only the Environmental Protection Agency and states have the power to regulate air pollution under the federal Clean Air Act. The BLM is overstepping its authority to regulate air quality, and the rule's cost can potentially reduce the availability of domestic natural gas supplies.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to the repeal of the BLM's unnecessary, costly methane flaring rule.

Sincerely,

Scott McInnis, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

Rose Pugliese  
Commissioner

John Justman  
Commissioner