



## **THE METHANE WASTE PREVENTION ACT OF 2019**

### **Section 1. Short Title**

**Section 2. Codification of Final Rule** codifies the final rule of the Environmental Protection Agency titled, “Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources,” which was published in the Federal Register on June 3, 2016.

**Section 3. Waste Gas Reduction and Enhancement of Gas Measuring and Reporting** amends the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act (FOGRMA) of 1982 by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to issue new rules to reduce the waste of natural gas from Federal leases and to increase reporting requirements for new and existing wells.

*Gas Waste Reduction:* To reduce the waste of natural gas via venting, flaring, and leaks on public lands, the bill would require:

- Capturing 85 percent of all gas produced on public lands within 3 years of enactment, and 99 percent of gas within 5 years;
- An end to the venting of natural gas;
- No flaring from new wells (effective 2 years after enactment); and
- Establishment of equipment and operation standards to minimize gas leakage and the establishment of mandatory leak detection and repair procedures.

*Gas Measuring, Reporting, and Transparency Requirements:* To better understand the volumes of gas lost by venting, flaring, and leaks, the bill would establish more stringent requirements for reporting production and disposition volumes. Since current reporting is often based on estimates, this requirement would increase the accuracy of vented and flared gas volumes and allow the amount leaked to be accurately calculated. This data would be publicly available via the internet, and the Secretary would be required to submit a report to Congress once adequate data is available detailing the actual amounts of wasted gas from federal lands. The Secretary would also make recommendations for additional rules necessary to further limit venting, flaring, and leaks. To ensure compliance with the new rules, the bill would authorize additional penalties to operators, including production restrictions or market-proportional fines.

Section 3 also reinstates the 2016 Bureau of Land Management Methane Waste Prevention Rule until the new rules required by the bill are promulgated.