

# Methane Emissions: Research Results Support Overturning New EPA Rule

## ACTION

Congress should use the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to overturn the EPA's final rule titled, "Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Review" which eliminated regulations for methane emissions for the oil and gas industry concerning leaks in pipelines, wells and storage facilities.

## Background

- Methane, the primary component of natural gas, has a global warming potential more than 25 times greater than that of carbon dioxide. Methane is the second most prevalent greenhouse gas emitted by human activities in the United States.
- Methane leaks, also referred to as "fugitive emissions," can occur at a number of points in natural gas/oil production, processing and transmission.
- EPA acknowledges the revised rules will lead to increased emissions of methane, estimating 850,000 more short tons of methane will be emitted by these sources between 2021 and 2030 than would have been if the agency had left the previous methane standards intact.

## New Research Shows Methane a More Potent Greenhouse Gas

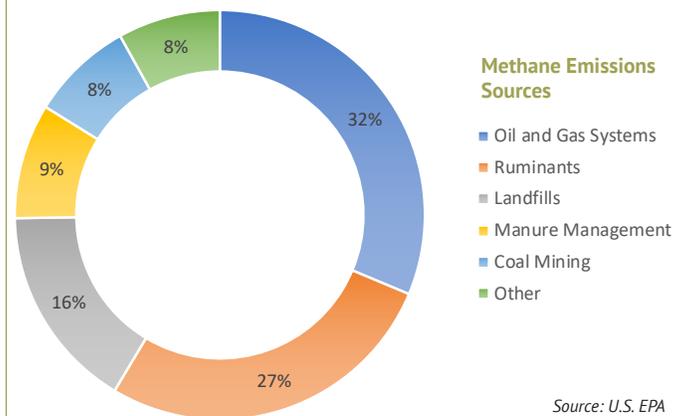
Until recently, widely used calculations of methane's radiative forcing (RF) had excluded any short wavelength effects. The inclusion of short wavelength effects impacts methane's 100-year global warming potential (GWP), increasing it by 14 percent above the value currently provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

100-Year Global Warming Potential



Source: M. Etminan et al., *Geophysical Research Letters* 43 (2016)

## Oil and Natural Gas Industry Largest Producers of Methane in U.S. (2017)



Source: U.S. EPA

## Major Oil and Gas Companies Support Federal Regulation of Methane Emissions



*"The best way to help further reduce and ultimately eliminate methane emissions industry wide is through direct federal regulation of new and existing sources."*

-Susan Dio, former BP America Chairwoman and President

Given the risks of methane emissions are higher than previously estimated, Congress should use the CRA to overturn EPA's recent rule change concerning methane emissions from the oil and gas industry.