



**VOTE NO ON H.R. 1023:
PROTECT AMERICAN TAXPAYERS AND STOP THE WASTE OF VALUABLE METHANE**

March 21, 2024

Dear Members of Congress,

I am writing to you today on behalf of Taxpayers for Common Sense Action to express our strong **opposition to any efforts to repeal the Methane Emissions Reduction Program (MERP)**. This critical initiative, established by the Inflation Reduction Act, represents a significant step towards reducing methane emissions, particularly in the petroleum and natural gas sector.

Methane waste not only results in lost revenue for American taxpayers but also incurs substantial financial liabilities. Each year, oil and gas companies in the United States waste thousands of billions of cubic feet of natural gas. On federal lands alone, operators have released 300 billion cubic feet of natural gas into the atmosphere over the past decade.¹ These practices squander valuable resources, adversely affecting taxpayers, consumers, and the climate.

The MERP offers a comprehensive approach to addressing this issue. It includes financial incentives for methane mitigation and monitoring, a Waste Emissions Charge, and updates to existing EPA greenhouse gas reporting requirements. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the MERP is projected to generate \$6.35 billion over the next ten years. This demonstrates the program's financial viability and its potential to contribute to the economy while simultaneously reducing harmful emissions.

Taxpayers for Common Sense Action believes that an effectively implemented MERP and Waste Emissions Charge will not unduly burden the industry. The program targets only a select number of large facilities with emissions past a specific threshold. Moreover, the industry already employs a range of cost-effective and proven technologies that can help operators avoid the fee. The MERP also provides incentives for operators to capture, instead of waste, the methane they produce, which will bring more natural gases to the market, benefiting consumers and taxpayers.

We strongly urge you to stand with American taxpayers and **oppose the repeal of the MERP in H.R. 1023**. This program represents a fiscally prudent approach to addressing the critical issue of methane emissions while supporting job creation and technological innovation in the methane mitigation industry.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

President

¹ Taxpayers for Common Sense, "Gas Giveaways II: Methane Waste on Federal Lands is Business as Usual," August 2022. <https://www.taxpayer.net/energy-natural-resources/gas-giveaways-ii-methane-waste-on-federal-lands-is-business-as-usual/>