



September 2, 2021

Dear Members of the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia Congressional Delegations:

We are writing on behalf of our respective organizations to urge your opposition to any fee on methane emissions that may be considered as part of the budget reconciliation package. Such a fee is simply an unreasonable, punitive tax intended to harm the oil and natural gas industry and consumers, as well as diminish the tremendous economic and environmental benefits derived from the hundreds of thousands of women and men who work directly and indirectly for the industry in the Appalachian Basin.

Our members are fully committed to improving air quality and further reducing all emission sources, particularly methane since it is the very product we sell, through leveraging best available technologies and practices. Every day we strive to make natural gas and oil production and transportation safer and more environmentally efficient. This harmful energy tax, however, would hinder progress while raising energy costs for all Americans and discourage capital investment that incentivizes innovation, all while providing virtually no environmental benefit.

Layering more taxes on strongly regulated domestic energy production increases costs for those who produce and rely on these essential resources, with low-and fixed-income families shouldering the disproportionate share of the tax hike. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) [calculates](#) that one-third of American households face challenges in meeting their energy needs.

Amid much of the nation's energy discussions, state and federal policy priorities should focus on encouraging more domestic production to promote national and energy security and environmental progress. We were indeed alarmed by President Biden's recent actions seeking more reliance on foreign energy sources from OPEC nations to meet our country's growing energy needs, particularly given America's energy abundance and environmental performance record.

Market-driven environmental performance innovations are driving clean air progress here and across the globe. America has witnessed a steady decline in energy-related emission reductions *because* of increased natural gas use as well as consumer and industrial use. In fact, the International Energy Agency (IEA) [credits](#) natural gas for the U.S. reducing energy-related emissions faster than the rest of the world. This significant progress reflects our industry's collaboration and investments in solutions to deliver the cleanest, most affordable, and most reliable energy to all Americans.

We are proud of the advancements our industry has made in air quality and environmental stewardship, and we remain committed to further reducing emissions in the fastest, most efficient way possible. That said, this massive energy tax would place a harmful burden on American families and businesses, especially our manufacturing sector.

Again, we urge you to oppose any such methane fee that would harm industry, consumers and workers alike. As always, thank you all for your commitment to our environment, our economy, energy security and working families in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Sincerely,

Charlie Burd, Executive Director
Gas & Oil Association
of West Virginia

Dave Callahan, President
Marcellus Shale Coalition

Matt Hammond, President
Ohio Oil & Gas Association