



**NEW MEXICO  
BUSINESS COALITION**

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**Oil Conservation Commission**

Florene Davidson, Clerk  
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Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87505  
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**RE: NMBC Comments on proposed Methane Rule**

Dear Members of the Oil Conservation Commission,

The State of New Mexico can and should work to achieve a balance between mitigating risks associated with climate change and ensuring the continued strength of oil and gas as the state's largest and most successful private industry. The final methane rules must continue to preserve this balance.

Oil and natural gas production is a critical part of New Mexico's economy and it is important that the state's methane rules allow that industry to grow, create jobs, and attract investment. This will help assure the provision of critical funds for the state's budget and public schools. That industry alone is responsible for more than 134,000 New Mexico jobs and, in 2020, provided \$2.8 billion to the state budget, including \$1.4 billion for public schools and higher education.

The oil and natural gas industry has been an important part of New Mexico for decades and we believe it will be instrumental in the economic recovery of our state. Supporting the industry's continued success in our state is imperative to all New Mexicans and it is important that flexible regulations be promulgated to allow it to continue operating successfully. This will also support continued research and innovation that we've already seen occurring within the industry.

The oil and natural gas industry is a responsible state partner and has a vested interest in reducing emissions of methane and other greenhouse gases. Producers are investing in new technology and equipment, adopting best practices across their operations. NMBC, therefore, supports flexible regulatory approaches that recognize and encourage the adoption and development of creative solutions to reduce emissions.

My best,

Carla J. Sonntag, President and Founder  
New Mexico Business Coalition