Call for Ambitious Methane Regulation for the Oil and Gas Industry

Climate change poses significant risks to the economy and the financial system. The oil and gas sector is a significant contributor of greenhouse gas emissions, including through the release of methane. While we recognize voluntary efforts from leading members of the oil and gas industry to curb methane emissions, government action is needed to address this systemic risk, reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a uniform manner, and support companies’ net-zero transitions.1,2,3

To help meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, we the undersigned financial institutions, representing more than $6.23 trillion in assets under management, call on the Biden administration to rapidly advance methane regulations for the U.S. oil and gas sector.

Methane, the main component of natural gas, is a potent greenhouse gas 84 times more powerful than carbon dioxide in its first two decades after release. Researchers estimate that methane from human sources is responsible for at least a quarter of today’s warming. In the oil and gas sector, methane emissions also represent lost product and can pose safety risks.4

If unaddressed, these emissions could limit American companies’ access to global gas export markets and jeopardize the role of natural gas in a decarbonizing economy.5,6 Any credible pathway for the use of natural gas in a Paris-aligned future must address methane emissions.

As prudent fiduciaries, we believe virtually eliminating methane emissions as part of a low-carbon transition can support the financial goals of both companies and investors. By taking action on methane emissions, the government can achieve valuable greenhouse gas reductions while helping American industries become cleaner and more competitive.

We welcome the Biden administration’s ambition to regulate methane emissions from the oil and gas sector and encourage the administration to develop and implement ambitious policies designed to:

- Address all potentially significant sources of oil and gas industry methane emissions, including inactive or abandoned wells;
- Ensure rapid detection and mitigation of natural gas leaks into the atmosphere;
- Minimize gas venting and flaring;
- Support development and deployment of innovative technologies for methane mitigation;
- Achieve ambitious emission reductions in a reasonably cost-effective manner.

Signed,

1 https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/methane-rollback-puts-us-wrong-track-gretchen-watkins/
Evereence and the Praxis Mutual Funds
EvereHope Capital
Figure 8 Investment Strategies
First Affirmative Financial Network
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Fondation de prévoyance Artes & Comœdia
Fondation de prévoyance du Groupe BNP PARIBAS en Suisse
Fondation de prévoyance professionnelle en faveur de AROMED
Fondation de prévoyance Romande Energie
Fondation Interprofessionnelle Sanitaire de Prévoyance (FISP)
Fondation Leenaards
Fondation Patrimonia
Fonds de Prévoyance de CA Indosuez (Suisse) SA
Fonds interprofessionnel de prévoyance (FIP)
Friends Fiduciary Corporation
Gebäudeversicherung Luzern
Gebäudeversicherung St. Gallen
Generate Capital, PBC
Gestion FÉRIQUE
Hexavest
Impact Investors
Impax Asset Management LLC
Jesuit Committee on Investment Responsibility
JLens
LACERA - Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association
Leadership Team of the Felician Sisters of North America
Legal & General Investment Management America (LGIMA)
Local Authority Pension Fund Forum
Luzerner Pensionskasse
Maryknoll Sisters
Mennonite Education Agency
Mercy Investment Services, Inc.
Miller/Howard Investments, Inc.
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate JPIC Office
Natural Investments
NEI Investments
Nest Sammelstiftung
Neumeier Pomal Investment Counsel, LLC
New York City Office of the Comptroller
New York State Common Retirement Fund
Nordea Asset Management
Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment
Office of the Vermont State Treasurer
Pensionskasse Römisch-katholische Landeskirche des Kantons Luzern
Pensionskasse AR
Pensionskasse Bank CIC (Schweiz)
Pensionskasse Basel-Stadt
Pensionskasse Bühler AG Uzwil
Pensionskasse Caritas
Pensionskasse der Basler Kantonalbank
Pensionskasse der Stadt Frauenfeld
Pensionskasse der Stadt Winterthur
Pensionskasse Pro Infirmis
Pensionskasse Schaffhausen
Pensionskasse SRG SSR
Pensionskasse Stadt Luzern
Pensionskasse Stadt St. Gallen
Pensionskasse Unia
Personalvorsorgekasse der Stadt Bern
Prévoyance Santé Valais (PRESV)
prévoyance.ne
Profelia Fondation de prévoyance
Prosperita Stiftung für die berufliche Vorsorge
Quantum Energy Partners
Raiffeisen Pensionskasse Genossenschaft
Region VI Coalition for Responsible Investment
Rentes Genevoises
Reynders, McVeigh Capital Management
RP - Fonds institutionnel
RRSE (Regroupement pour la Responsabilité Sociale des Entreprises)
San Francisco Employees’ Retirement System (SFERS)
School Sisters of Notre Dame Cooperative Investment Fund
Seattle City Employees’ Retirement System
Secunda Sammelstiftung
Seva Foundation
Seventh Generation Interfaith Inc
Sierra Club Foundation
Signet Strategic Wealth Management, Inc.
Silicz Wealth Management Team
Sisters of Bon Secours USA
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill Philadelphia, PA
Sisters of St. Dominic Racine, WI
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell
Sisters of St. Francis
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield
Sisters of the Holy Cross
Sisters of the Humility of Mary
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Socially Responsible Investment Coalition
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Trinity Health
Unfallversicherungskasse des Basler Staatspersonals
Unitarian Universalist Association
United Church Funds
Université de Genève (UNIGE)
University Pension Plan
Verein Barmherzige Brüder von Maria-Hilf (Schweiz)
Vermont Pension Investment Committee
Vert Asset Management
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