



September 2, 2021

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Capito:

On behalf of West Virginia's natural gas and oil industry, their employees, and the millions of Americans who benefit from abundant, affordable energy, we express our deep concerns with the [Methane Emissions Reduction Act of 2021](#) and similar legislation currently before Congress that would discourage further investments in American energy development.

Our members are fully committed to improving air quality and further reducing all emission sources, particularly methane, through leveraging technologies and best practices that make natural gas and oil production and transportation safer and more environmentally efficient.

This harmful energy tax legislation, however, would raise costs for all Americans, discourage capital investment that incentivizes innovation, and provide virtually no environmental benefit.

Specifically, the formula used to calculate the proposed tax lacks clarity and relies on underdeveloped technologies to monitor and accurately identify original methane sources. It also applies a blanket fee - or tax - on all companies based on the average emission intensity of the basin in which they operate, penalizing high environmental performers for their efforts and discouraging investments in technologies that reduce emissions.

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. As our nation recovers from the pandemic, hard-working Americans shouldn't be burdened with higher energy costs.

And given much of the nation's energy reliability challenges and surging fuel prices, state and federal policy priorities should focus on encouraging more domestic production to promote national and energy security.

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 development 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 environmental 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.

Thank you all for your commitment to our environment, our economy, West Virginia families and workers, America's energy security, and for your service to our great state of West Virginia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Burd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Charlie Burd  
Executive Director  
Gas and Oil Association of West Virginia (GO-WV)