



**For Immediate Release**

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### **State of the Air Report Highlights the Impact of Air Pollution from Oil & Gas Operations on the Health of New Mexico's Children**

The American Lung Association today released their annual State of the Air report, a comprehensive report card on air quality and its human health impacts across the U.S.

Unfortunately, ALA found that far too many communities in New Mexico are failing when it comes to healthy air. Five New Mexico counties received failing grades from ALA today for poor ozone pollution readings. This includes both San Juan and Eddy counties in the state's major oil and gas basins.

"Ozone pollution tied to poorly regulated oil and gas drilling harms the health of children and leads directly to asthma. State and federal regulators need to do a better job of limiting oil and gas air pollution. Today's failing grades should be a wake-up call on the need to better protect all New Mexicans from air pollution" said Moms Clean Air Force's field manager Chelsey Evans.

Ozone (commonly referred to as smog) pollution has serious human health impacts and is created by two forms of emissions (oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds) both tied to oil and gas development.

"The air we breathe everyday directly impacts my family's quality of life. Today's report tells me as a mother that we have poisoned the air so badly that, on bad days, our children can't go outside, can't exercise, suffer from asthma attacks and can develop chronic, lifelong diseases. Air pollution from the oil & gas industry is robbing our kids of the chance to live full and rewarding childhoods" said Mely Mitchell, a mother from Albuquerque.

Rules currently under consideration by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would reduce harmful emissions of methane, volatile organic compounds and other pollutants from the oil and natural gas industry. These commonsense standards would not only help to mitigate climate change and its associated health risks by curtailing emissions of methane—an especially potent greenhouse gas—but would also limit emissions of major precursors to ozone, as well as other toxic and carcinogenic air pollutants, benefiting public health in communities across the country.

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*Moms Clean Air Force is a community of over 700,000 moms and dads united against air pollution – including the urgent crisis of our changing climate – to protect our children's health. We arm members with reliable information and solutions through online resources, articles, action tools and on-the-ground events. More here:*

<http://www.moms-clean-air-force.org/>