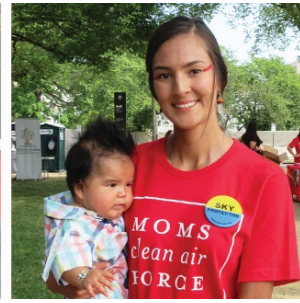


MOMS  
clean air  
FORCE



## PRESS STATEMENT

August 29, 2019

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### MOMS CLEAN AIR FORCE OPPOSES TRUMP'S PLAN TO GUT CRITICAL EPA METHANE SAFEGUARDS FOR PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler today proposed to eliminate direct regulation of methane pollution from new and modified oil and gas facilities. This proposal would be a major step backward in the effort to address climate change and a thinly veiled attempt to shield oil and gas facilities from national standards for years to come while ignoring EPA's core mission to protect public health and the environment.

"Oil and gas operations are leaking, venting, and flaring dangerous climate pollution at alarming rates. This industry needs to clean up its act. Voluntary measures are not working, and children are already being exposed to harmful air pollution. **Today's proposal is a direct threat to our children's health and future. Now more than ever, moms across Pennsylvania need Governor Wolf's leadership to protect them from methane pollution from the oil and gas industry,"** said Mollie Michel Field Consultant in Pennsylvania for Moms Clean Air Force.

**"Climate change is a public health emergency. It is degrading air quality and fueling extreme weather. Families across the Commonwealth - and the nation - are experiencing increasingly severe storms; more flooding; and an increase in prevalence of vector-borne diseases like Lyme. Extreme heat caused by climate change is dangerous for babies, children, pregnant women, older adults, and people with underlying health conditions, such as asthma,"** said Michel, who lives in Philadelphia with her family. "In Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, this is particularly dangerous to our kids, because childhood asthma rates in our cities are more than twice the national average. We need urgent action to address the climate crisis. Today's proposal is a major step backward in our efforts to protect our children's health and future from the climate crisis."

"Oil and gas operations also release other harmful air pollutants, putting children who are in close proximity to oil and gas operations at increased risk of exposure to cancer-causing chemicals such as benzene and toluene. Methane pollution safeguards are critical in the fight against climate change, and they also help protect my family's health from harmful air pollutants. Moms across the country strongly oppose today's proposal from Trump's EPA, and we plan to fight for vital methane safeguards to reduce climate pollution and clean up the air for families like mine who are living, learning, and playing near oil and gas operations."

Oil and gas operations across the U.S. release over **13 million metric tons of climate-warming methane a year**. This pollution accounts for **25 percent** of the global warming we are experiencing today. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas more than 80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide in the near term.

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*Moms Clean Air Force is a community of over one million moms—and dads—working together to fight air pollution, including the urgent crisis of our changing climate. For more information, go to [www.momscleanairforce.org](http://www.momscleanairforce.org) or follow us on Twitter [@CleanAirMoms](https://twitter.com/CleanAirMoms), Instagram [@cleanairmoms](https://www.instagram.com/cleanairmoms), or Facebook.*