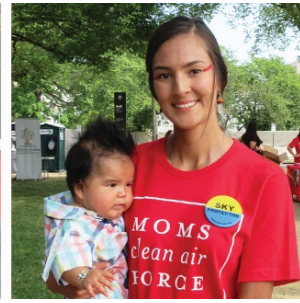


MOMS  
clean air  
FORCE



## PRESS STATEMENT

August 29, 2019

Contact: Dee Dee Belmares, (210) 827-0252, [dbelmares@momscleanairforce.org](mailto:dbelmares@momscleanairforce.org)

### MOMS CLEAN AIR FORCE OPPOSES TRUMP'S PLAN TO GUT CRITICAL EPA METHANE STANDARDS FOR TEXAS 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 being exposed to harmful air pollution. **Today's proposal is a direct threat to our children's health and future,**" said Dee Dee Belmares, **Field Consultant in Texas for Moms Clean Air Force.**

**"Climate change is a public health emergency. It is degrading air quality and fueling extreme weather. Families across Texas are experiencing more powerful hurricanes; an increase in extreme droughts; and more flooding. 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 Belmares, who lives in San Antonio with her family. "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 runaway climate change."

**"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 families' 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 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.

###

*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.*