

MOMS  
clean air  
FORCE



## PRESS STATEMENT

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### NEW MEXICO MOMS TESTIFY AGAINST TRUMP'S PLAN TO GUT CRITICAL EPA METHANE SAFEGUARDS FOR FAMILIES

We are experiencing runaway warming across the globe. It is imperiling our families, and methane is a prime contributor to the climate crisis. Oil and gas operations across the U.S. release over **13 million metric tons of climate-warming methane a year**. Instead of strengthening protections that reign in methane leaks and emissions, this administration is denying that there is a problem and attacking critical health and climate safeguards.

New Mexico moms are delivering testimony on **Thursday, October 17 in Dallas** at the **only** public hearing on the EPA's New Source Performance Standards for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry.

"Climate change is already impacting New Mexico with longer, more intense wildfire seasons, increased heat waves, and droughts that threaten the health of New Mexico families. In the summer of 2018, the Buzzard Fire in the Gila National Forest led to **elevated particulate pollution** in Albuquerque, and health experts urged residents to stay indoors due to poor air quality," says Celerah Hewes, Field Organizer for Moms Clean Air Force's New Mexico chapter.

"Last year was New Mexico's hottest year on record. Extreme heat poses severe health risks such as dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and even death. This threat is especially acute for those without access to electricity, including **40 percent** of residents in the Navajo Nation in New Mexico. Finally, the risk of water scarcity and drought is increasing, and in 2018, the entire state of New Mexico was in a drought. According to the **EPA**, the snowpack has been decreasing in New Mexico and the Rocky Mountain West since the 1950s, which could threaten the Rio Grande, Pecos and San Juan rivers and drinking water supplies."

This pollution from the oil and gas industry 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.*