



STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
84114-2220

SPENCER J. COX
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 3, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Bishop,

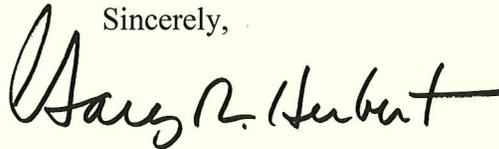
Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support for utilizing the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to withdraw the final Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposed Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation rule published in the Federal Register November 18, 2016. This rule commonly known as the "BLM Methane Rule" lacks statutory authority. In implementing an air quality program, the BLM has departed significantly from the purpose Congress intended it to serve. CRA is an appropriate tool to address these unauthorized regulatory expansions that undermine Congressional and state authority.

The oil and gas industry is a vital part of Utah, providing crucial government revenues, high-paying jobs, and economic opportunities. Utah's oil and gas industry is facing significant challenges from depressed commodity prices and market conditions. Under these conditions, regulators are under a much greater responsibility to work closely with states and affected communities to ensure that only lawful, necessary and cost effective regulations are considered. The BLM should focus on its authorized authorities for reducing methane emissions, including speeding the permitting process for pipeline and natural gas gathering line rights-of-way rather than pursuing the costly, unnecessary and unauthorized Methane Rule program.

Protecting Utah's lawful state authority and advancing Utah's energy economy are both crucial components of my administration's formula for Utah's success. I believe The BLM's Methane Rule runs contrary to both of these goals. The Methane Rule unlawfully interferes with existing air quality regulations and places new regulatory burdens on an already heavily regulated oil and gas industry. The state of Utah is committed to developing its energy resources in a way that is beneficial to its citizens but also mindful of environmental impacts. I am confident the state will continue to exert appropriate regulatory controls in this area in the absence of a federal rule.

Utah is committed to working with Congress and the appropriate federal agencies on solutions for advancing energy development and protecting the environment. To this end, I lend my support to the deployment of CRA to remove those aspects of the BLM Methane Rule that overstep into U.S EPA and state jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary R. Herbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gary R. Herbert
Governor