

57 House Republicans Send Letter to Dept. of Interior Arguing Against Methane Rule and Call For Permit Reform

Major Co-Signers of the Letter Sent to Department of Interior



House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA 23rd District)



Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT 1st District)

“This rule adds another layer of duplicative federal regulation on top of already existing federal and state regulations. The rule oversteps BLM's regulatory jurisdiction, and completely fails to address crucial failures by the BLM to capture methane emissions through common sense methods such as timely right-of-way permitting.”

57 House Republicans, who sent a letter to Department of Interior complaining of Interior's new methane emission rule

Analysis

- Speaker of the House Paul Ryan established a task force to examine federal regulations and look for ones seen as inefficient.
- This task force determined the new Department of Interior rule calling for a 40-45% reduction in methane emissions was onerous and burdensome.
- The House Republicans signing the letter called for pipeline permit reform instead to address methane emissions.

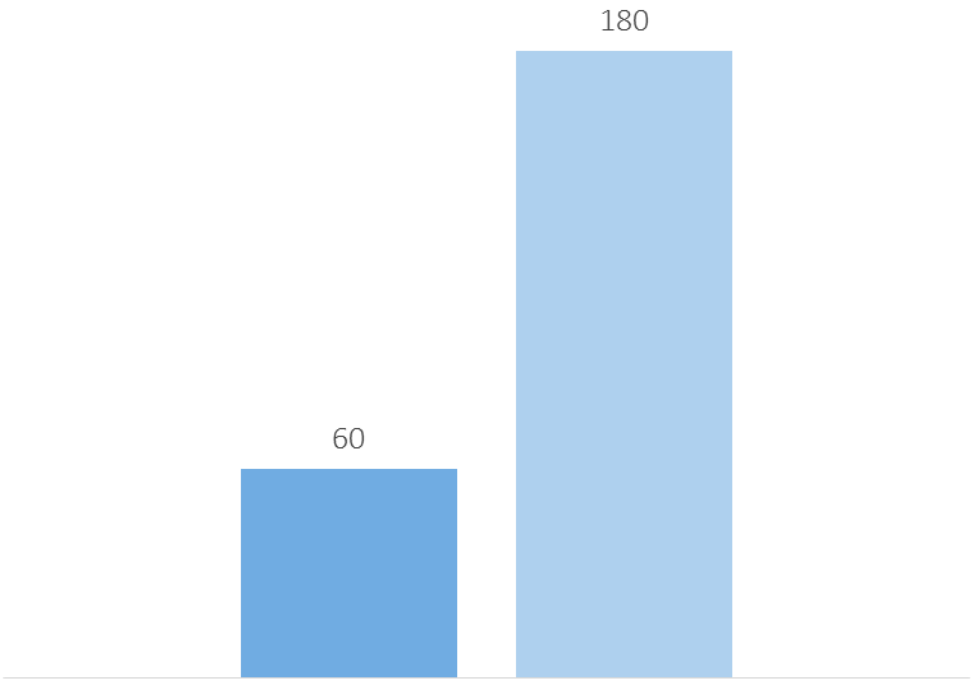
Source: Nick Snow, “House Republicans Prefer Pipeline Permit Reforms to BLM Methane Rule,” *Oil and Gas Journal*, July 28, 2016; Devin Henry, “Republicans Push Back On Interior Methane Leak Plan,” *The Hill*, July 27, 2016.

House Republicans Suggest Expediting BLM Pipeline Permit Review Process to Lower Emissions

Difference In BLM Review Process for Pipeline Right-of-Way Permitting

Measured in Days

■ BLM Manual Suggested Time to Finish Pipeline Review Process ■ Actual Average Amount of Time It Takes to Finish Pipeline Review



Pipeline Permit Process

- House Republicans are suggesting the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) change the pipeline right-of-way permitting process to lower methane emission instead of the new rule setting methane emission levels.
- There are major delays in approving pipeline construction creating less pipelines to absorb emission levels from well heads.
- The belief is expediting pipeline construction will result in more methane being caught at well sources reducing the need for methane emission mandates.

Source: Nick Snow, "House Republicans Prefer Pipeline Permit Reforms to BLM Methane Rule," Oil and Gas Journal, July 28, 2016; Devin Henry, "Republicans Push Back On Interior Methane Leak Plan," The Hill, July 27, 2016.