

April 20, 2023

F. Jonathan Rice
Department of Natural Resources
Office of Conservation, Environmental Division
617 North Third Street, Room 927
Baton Rouge, La 70802

Via Hand Delivery

In re: Reference Docket No. R. A. 2023-13

Dear Mr. Rice,

Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship, founded on the premise that environmental stewardship and natural resource conservation are inherently conservative, applauds the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources for taking steps to address methane waste from the oil and gas industry through proposed rule amendments to limit venting and flaring.

Methane lost through venting and flaring is a waste of valuable domestic natural resources because methane is the primary constituent of natural gas. In 2019, oil and gas producers in Louisiana reported that 5.18 billion cubic feet of natural gas was lost due to venting and flaring, valued at nearly \$16 million. Because oil and gas operators avoid paying taxes and royalties on wasted gas, venting and flaring is also fiscally irresponsible. Commonsense rules that limit waste from venting and flaring can also generate tax and royalty revenues.

Climate change is supercharged by methane, which is a greenhouse gas with more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide for the first 20 years it is in the atmosphere. Regulating methane waste from venting and flaring is an effective, smart, economically sound action to conserve resources and slow climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We encourage LDNR to continue its efforts to update its rules to prevent energy waste from the practice of venting and flaring. Rules to cut methane waste are a prudent solution to conserve American energy resources and safeguard our planet from harmful pollution.

Sincerely,

David Jenkins, President
Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship
djenkins@conservativestewards.org