



POR LA CREACIÓN

FAITH-BASED ALLIANCE

December 14, 2018

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Wheeler:

As faith leaders in our communities and members of the Por la Creación Faith-based Alliance, we seek to educate Latinos and to encourage active engagement in protecting the nation's natural resources in order to leave a healthier legacy for future generations. This is why we oppose changes that weaken the Environmental Protection Agency's 2016 New Source Performance Standards.

These current standards protect communities from unhealthy pollution emitted from oil and gas operations such as methane, which under the current standards is captured at a low cost and has both public health and economic benefits associated with these regulations. Under the latest EPA proposal, released on September 11, 2018, new and modified oil and gas producing sources would no longer be held to these common sense standards that improve our nation's air quality and benefit the health of our families.

As faith leaders we bring common-sense and spiritual guidance to the national discussion about the environmental issues affecting Latinos. Latinos are greatly affected by the methane and volatile organic compounds released through oil and gas production — 1.8 million Latinos nationwide live within a half mile of oil and gas development.¹ Latino children are especially vulnerable to the harmful chemicals and pollutants which cause smog and lead to asthma attacks, particularly in Latino children who are 60% more at risk than their non-Latino white counterparts of having asthma attacks exacerbated by air pollution.² The EPA has a moral obligation to protect Americans from these health threats derived from oil and gas production.

We need energy development for our nation's energy independence, but we also need to protect God's creation and people. We can do both. Por la Creación Faith-based Alliance urges the EPA to keep the commonsense 2016 New Source Performance Standards, which will utilize our natural resources responsibly and provide power to our homes, businesses and vehicles.

¹ https://cdn.moms-clean-air-force.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Latinos_AirPollution.pdf

² https://cdn.moms-clean-air-force.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Latinos_ClimateChange.pdf



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Sincerely,

Pastor Rigoberto Magana
New Hope Christian Fellowship
Greeley, CO

Rev. Victor Venalanzo
Iglesia Betania
Yuma, AZ

Pastor Miguel Perez
Monte De Sion Community Church
Albuquerque, NM

Pastor Burke Montoya
Way of Life Church
Phoenix, AZ

Pastor Helia Martinez
Templo Cristiano Vino Nuevo
San, Luis, AZ

Pastor Juan Almanza
Centro de Adoración Familiar
Las Vegas, NV

Pastor Moses Borjas
Living Covenant Church
El Paso, TX

Martin Martinez
Bethel Christian Fellowship
Fontana, CA

Pastor Victor Jarvis
Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal



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Lawrence, MA

Pastor Gabriel Araya
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