

## 15.XXX RESOLUTION

State regulations should be the proper authority to encourage capture of methane emissions rather than from the Federal level

**WHEREAS**, Methane is a valuable natural gas, cleanly, safely and economically powering our homes, our businesses and economies. While the benefits are significant, our responsibility includes stewardship of our community health and the environment as well as providing for the jobs and growth that natural gas enables.

**WHEREAS**, States recognize both the environmental and economic benefits to reducing methane emissions and the opportunities for beneficial use of this vital natural resource.

**WHEREAS**, Methane emissions is a conservation issue and reduction of waste and conservation of resources is regulated by all oil and gas producing states.

**WHEREAS**, States not only have a vested interest because of conservation of resources, but also have statutorily-recognized authority, to manage air quality within their borders. The Clean Air Act recognizes that states should take a lead role in implementing various provisions of the Act. This is largely because emission of chemical substances affecting air quality often differs based on local industry, geography, and other state-specific factors. It is very important that these unique factors be considered as opposed to a one-size-fits-all, centrally-managed process from the Federal government.

**WHEREAS**, States, in cooperation with industry, have been implementing regulatory strategies to successfully reduce methane emissions in oil and natural gas operations and other sources for a number of years. These state regulations encourage enhanced capture of methane emissions and therefore enable expansion of the market for the use and sale of methane and provide environmental protection. This is beneficial for state economies and for the agricultural, waste and energy industries.

**WHEREAS**, To be sure, the Federal government does play an important role in this issue. However, so must the States.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, State regulations should be the proper authority to encourage capture of methane emissions rather than from the Federal level

**NOW THEREFORE, ALSO BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, IOGCC, in light of the foregoing, urges Federal agencies to learn from States' experience in methane emission regulation and to ensure State agencies and regulators have a robust voice and meaningful role to play in the development of a rulemaking for methane emission reduction. If and when federal methane

emission reduction rules are considered, federal agencies should consult with States early in the possible rulemaking process, and should take into account State views, opinions, and economic needs. States provide the flexibility to integrate a variety of technologies and tools to achieve methane emission reduction standards, while also providing States with continued and potentially increased economic opportunity.