



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY

Fact Sheet

Methane Emissions Mitigation Research and Development Act

Introduced by Congressmen Sean Casten (D-IL) and Peter Meijer (R-MI)

The Methane Emissions Mitigation Research and Development Act would establish a research, development, and demonstration program at the Department of Energy to support technologies and methods that detect, quantify, and significantly mitigate methane emissions.

Methane accounts for approximately 30% of global warming since the Industrial Revolution, and is a short-lived pollutant with an atmospheric lifetime of about a decade. For the duration of its lifetime, methane is a far more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, with a global warming potential that is 84-87 times greater than CO₂ over a 20-year timeframe. This means that immediate action to reduce methane emissions would rapidly reduce overall warming. By targeting methane emissions, this bill provides a unique opportunity to slow the pace of climate change, and give us more time to implement lasting changes to transition to a clean energy future.

2021 saw the highest annual growth rate for methane emissions to date- the problem is not slowing down, and will continue to increase without action. Innovative LDAR technologies supported by this bill are needed to dramatically reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector, and the Department of Energy has the right resources to ensure that we can produce the best possible methane reduction technologies. In addition, this bill directs DOE to coordinate a technical assistance program to work with state and local governments, as well as private industry to reduce methane emissions and protect public safety. There is no one size fits all in terms of reducing emissions in the oil and gas sector – depending on size of operations, location, and many other factors, methods for targeting emissions vary, and DOE expertise can help reduce this knowledge gap.

Furthermore, this bill creates a Consortium at DOE with members that include industry, the federal government, and community organizations, focused on data sharing and researching cooperative leak detection and repair (LDAR) strategies. This came directly from a recommendation in the Science Committee's staff report on methane emissions, which was crafted over an 18-month examination into how federal research can reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector.

Finally, the Methane Emissions Mitigation Research and Development Act authorizes appropriations at \$33 million in FY23 rising to a little over \$40 million in FY2027.