

# United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

December 17th, 2025

The Honorable Chris Wright  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

The Honorable Doug Burgum  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Howard Lutnick  
Secretary  
Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Jamieson Greer  
Ambassador  
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
600 17th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Secretaries Wright, Burgum, Lutnick, and Ambassador Greer,

We write to bring to your attention a serious breach of U.S. sovereignty and a direct threat to America's oil and gas producers.

The European Union Methane Regulation (EUMR), which began its five-year phase-in on August 4, 2024, seeks to advance the goals of the "European Green New Deal" by imposing extensive new requirements on businesses to reduce methane emissions.<sup>1</sup> Notably, the European Union (EU) intends not only to regulate oil and gas production within its own borders but also to establish new and arbitrary "methane intensity" targets that would apply to American energy producers who export to the EU.<sup>2</sup>

The EUMR tightens methane-intensity standards for oil and natural gas imports over a five-year period. Already, companies exporting to Europe must report their methane emissions to EU member states. In 2027, the rules become stricter—importers will have to show that any new or renewed contracts involve fuel produced under methane measurement, reporting, and verification standards that are at least as strong as those set by the EU. By August 2030, importers must prove their contracts only bring in fuel with a methane intensity below a threshold set by Brussels.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> European Commission, "Methane emissions," [https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/carbon-management-and-fossil-fuels/methane-emissions\\_en](https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/carbon-management-and-fossil-fuels/methane-emissions_en).

<sup>2</sup> International Energy Agency, "EU Regulation on the Reduction of Methane Emissions in the Energy Sector," IEA Policies database, published May 2024, <https://www.iea.org/policies/18209-eu-regulation-on-the-reduction-of-methane-emissions-in-the-energy-sector>.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

The delayed phase-in is a common tactic of European bureaucrats hoping to change corporate practices via regulatory fiat. Already, the current reporting requirements—which are ostensibly the easiest to comply with—not only impugn America’s sovereignty but are nonsensical and create unnecessary burdens on American businesses.<sup>4</sup> American liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporters do not produce the natural gas themselves but instead purchase the product from producers across the country. Natural gas originating from the Permian Basin, for instance, will have a different emissions profile from that of the Marcellus shale region, and tracking a molecule from wellhead to export terminal to verify EU demanded emissions data is infeasible. This reality matters little to European regulators, and failure to comply may result in significant financial penalties for American companies.<sup>5</sup>

When fully phased in, the EUMR will set a new, yet-to-be-defined methane intensity standard for U.S. imports of oil and natural gas. This provision, if allowed to go into effect, would mean that regulators in Paris, Berlin, and Brussels would tell operators in Midland and Pittsburgh how, when, and where to produce energy. The insinuation that European countries could directly regulate American producers is a gross overstep and breach of bilateral relations—especially in the aftermath of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, where American LNG exporters helped fend off the worst-case scenarios by surging cargoes to the region.<sup>6</sup> Europe continues to rely on U.S. LNG to keep homes warm, lights on, and factories operating across the continent. In the absence of U.S. LNG, Europe’s reliance on Russian energy would grow, further undermining European security and reinforcing Russia’s strategic grip on the continent.

The EUMR represents a non-tariff trade barrier that could effectively end U.S. LNG exports to Europe. This contravenes both European leaders expressed intent, as well as the explicit terms of the recent U.S.–EU trade deal.<sup>7</sup> As part of this framework, the United States and the European Union committed to “[address] non-tariff barriers that might restrict bilateral energy trade,”<sup>8</sup> and Brussels committed to procuring billions in U.S. energy through 2028.<sup>9</sup>

As you meet with your European counterparts to finalize the trade deal implementation action plan, we ask that this administration use all available legal, diplomatic, and economic tools to ensure that the EUMR is repealed in full. Regulating aspects of the EU’s own oil and gas

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<sup>4</sup> Institute for Energy Research, “*E.U. Methane Rules a Problem for U.S. LNG Producers*,” <https://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/fossil-fuels/gas-and-oil/new-e-u-methane-rules-a-problem-for-u-s-lng-producers/>.

<sup>5</sup> Maria Olczak, *EU Methane Import Requirements: Can a Regulation Change How and From Where the EU Buys Gas?* (Oxford: Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, 2025).

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration, “*The United States remained the largest liquefied natural gas supplier to Europe in 2023*,” *Today in Energy* (February 29, 2024), <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=61483>.

<sup>7</sup> Financial Times, “*Top EU energy official says US gas will be needed for decades*,” *Financial Times*, (September 24, 2023), <https://www.ft.com/content/7e94bc82-c358-4a8c-b539-781d62dbc3c9>.

<sup>8</sup> The White House. August 21, 2025. *Joint Statement on a United States-European Union Framework on an Agreement on Reciprocal, Fair, and Balanced Trade*.

<sup>9</sup> Financial Times, “*US–EU deal a turning point for corporate supply chains*,” *Financial Times*, (July 27, 2025), <https://www.ft.com/content/c1737bd3-9a1f-471d-9ae3-b102d6e25625>.

production is within the authority delegated to it by member states—any attempt to extend such regulations to U.S. producers represents a clear and provocative attempt to supersede America's sovereign right to regulate, through laws passed by the U.S. Congress, its own energy supply.

Thank you for your commitment to maintaining American energy dominance. We stand ready to work together with this Administration to protect U.S. energy producers across the country.



Ted Cruz

United States Senator



John Kennedy

U.S. Senator