

Badlands Area Resource Council * Citizens Caring for the Future
Clean Air Task Force * Dakota Resource Council * Devil's Spring Ranch
Earthjustice * Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Law & Policy Center * Evangelical Environmental Network
Fort Berthold POWER * GreenLatinos * HECHO * Hispanic Access Foundation
League of Conservation Voters * Moms Clean Air Force
Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance * Naeva
National Parks Conservation Association * National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council * Navajo Nation Head Start Policy Council
New Mexico & El Paso Interfaith Power and Light
Northern Plains Resource Council * Partnership for Responsible Business
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union * Santa Fe Green Chamber of Commerce
Sierra Club * Socially Responsible Investment Coalition
The Wilderness Society * Western Environmental Law Center
Western Leaders Network * Western Organization of Resource Councils
Wyoming Outdoor Council

January 12, 2023

Tracy Stone-Manning
Director
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

By email and via public comment portal at Regulations.gov

RE: Request for Public Hearing for Proposed Rules for Waste Prevention,
Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation, 87 Fed. Reg.
73588 (Nov. 30, 2022), RIN 1004-AE79

Director Stone-Manning,

The 32 organizations listed above respectfully request that the Bureau of Land Management hold a public hearing for its Proposed Waste Prevention Rule. This proposal is very important to our respective members and the public generally and will have long-term implications for taxpayers, tribes, and the management of fluid mineral development on tribal and federal public lands. Given the complexity and importance of the rule, a public hearing is warranted.

For this proposal, BLM held a poorly publicized one-hour webinar on January 11, 2023, the same day and the same time as the EPA was holding the second day of three days of public hearings on its supplemental proposal for Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources from the oil and gas sector. The webinar did not

allow for public comment. As a result, the opportunity for interested stakeholders to have their questions answered and provide input was significantly limited.

The absence of a public hearing opportunity is particularly concerning given the importance of this rule to western communities and the fact that the BLM conducted a robust public outreach effort in support of the agency's 2016 Waste Prevention Rule. As outlined in the [Federal Register](#), the BLM "engaged in substantial stakeholder outreach in the course of developing this proposal. In 2014, the BLM conducted a series of forums to consult with tribal governments and solicit stakeholder views to inform the development of this proposed rule, with public meetings (some of which were livestreamed) in Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Washington, DC."

Accordingly, our organizations respectfully request that BLM schedule a public hearing for this important regulatory proposal.

Sincerely,



Robin Cooley (she/her)
Deputy Managing Attorney
Earthjustice Rocky Mountain Office



Melissa Hornbein
Senior Attorney
Western Environmental Law Center

Cc: Nada Culver, Deputy Director of Policy and Programs, Bureau of Land Management
Lonny Bagley, Acting Division Chief, Bureau of Land Management
Faith Bremner, Regulatory Analyst, Bureau of Land Management
Steve Feldgus, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, U.S. Department of the Interior