

Lisa DeVille Testimony

OMB

January 24, 2024

Introduction:

Hi my name is Lisa Finley-DeVillle. I am an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidasta, Arikara Nation. I and my family live in the heart of the North Dakota oil and gas fields on Fort Berthold Reservation. I am currently serving as the State Representative for District 4a, which encompasses my entire reservation. My reservation is highly impacted by oil and gas development and as a result has significant methane waste from flaring, venting, and leaks. I am here today to urge for a strong rule that works to control the waste of methane in communities like mine. Methane waste for communities like mine means lost revenue (such as taxes and royalties), as well as health impacts from the impaired air quality that occurs when methane is vented or flared.

It is imperative that the federal government act swiftly to finalize a strong rule. People in my community have to rely on federal rules and regulations to control the oil and gas industry because we lack local and state laws that effectively address the issue of methane flaring, venting, and leaks. In fact, I would argue that finalizing a strong rule to address this important issue is a part of your trust responsibility to me and my tribe as the federal government. Thank you.