

April 20, 2023

F. Jonathan Rice  
Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Conservation, Environmental Division  
617 North Third Street, Room 927  
Baton Rouge, La 70802

Submitted via Hand-Delivery

In re: Reference Docket No. R. A. 2023-13

Dear Mr. Rice,

The Evangelical Environmental Network thanks the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources for its draft proposed regulatory amendment to address methane waste from the oil and gas industry's wasteful and polluting practice of venting and flaring.

Since the gas industry began, it has far too often failed to steward God's resources well. It has carelessly wasted away natural gas through routine venting and flaring. If captured and used, this gas could instead meet domestic energy needs, generating more revenue for taxpayers, private landowners, and local communities through increased royalties. In 2019, oil and gas producers in Louisiana reported that 5.18 billion cubic feet of natural gas was lost due to venting and flaring, valued at nearly \$16 million. That is enough gas to supply almost every household in New Orleans for a year.

These reckless industry practices also threaten the health of our most precious resource: our children. Venting and flaring of natural gas spews dangerous levels of soot (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and other life-threatening toxics into communities near gas production sites. Breathing air polluted with PM<sub>2.5</sub> has been associated with preterm birth, cardio-pulmonary diseases, dementia, and even death. It is past time to eliminate all routine flaring and venting in order to be good stewards of our national resources and to defend our kids' health.

The cost benefits and even revenue opportunities of the industry ending these wasteful practices are substantial. We pray the LDNR continues its efforts to update its rules to address harmful energy waste from the practice of venting and flaring and look forward to additional public participation opportunities.

Sincerely,

Rev. Kyle Meyaard-Schaap  
Vice President, Evangelical Environmental Network