Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Fleischmann, Ranking Member Kaptur, Chairman Simpson, and Ranking Member Pingree:

We write to express our strong support for technologies and research to reduce emissions within the energy sector – specifically in natural gas development and its supply chain. As our communities and energy industry grapple with mitigating the effects of climate change, we know that we must use available resources in increasingly sustainable ways that reduce their environmental impact. This includes research, development, and deployment of these critical technologies across the federal government. We request the highest possible funding for the relevant accounts to support these crucial programs in the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Energy and Water and Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bills.

This common-sense effort is vital to advancing our energy economy in a sustainable way. Scientists have studied methane and carbon dioxide emissions for decades and continue to update estimates of emission contributions and impacts on climate change. Industry leaders, scientists, and environmental organizations have stated that we need to invest more in mitigating these emissions.

Within the Department of Energy's Fossil Research and Development Account, this includes the Emissions Mitigation from the Midstream Infrastructure Research and Development program and the Emissions Quantification from the Natural Gas Infrastructure program. The Emissions Mitigation program seeks to develop new methods, technologies, and research into limiting emissions from natural gas pipeline and storage infrastructure. This could include research into new and novel approaches to methane sensors, new leak detection systems, early detection techniques or technologies for factors leading to unintended releases, or equipment features and upgrades to prevent methane releases. The Emissions Quantification program aims to help accurately determine the extent and source of these emissions. This type of research is especially important as the industry, research institutions, and government entities assess and consider a with a range of methane emissions estimates. Both programs are essential to improving the long-term sustainability of the domestic energy sector and reducing environmental impacts.

We also urge the Committee to include the highest possible funding levels for *Clean Air Act* programs that aim to reduce emissions from the oil and natural gas industry. This includes funding of the Environment & Management account, Science & Technology account, and State & Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to benefit methane mitigation work across the country. Limiting methane emissions requires a multi-departmental and cooperative approach across federal and state governments, and this critical funding facilitates that joint approach.

The *Energy Act of 2020* authorized the Secretary of Energy to carry out a research and development program for technologies that would reduce the environmental impact of produced water and for opportunities to reprocess produced water onsite. We request the highest possible funding for this program to ensure that produced water is sufficiently treated to reduce its environmental impact and counteract the emissions that frequently result from this byproduct being shipped off-site for treatment.

We greatly appreciate your continued efforts to improve the sustainability of our country's energy sector. Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress

Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress