

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7435

To reduce methane emissions from flaring and venting natural gas during oil and natural gas production activities, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 30, 2020

Mr. UPTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To reduce methane emissions from flaring and venting natural gas during oil and natural gas production activities, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Methane Emissions  
5 Reduction Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. METHANE EMISSIONS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy shall  
8 carry out a comprehensive program to reduce methane

1 emissions from flaring and venting natural gas during oil  
2 and natural gas production activities, recognizing that  
3 States are the primary regulators of oil and natural gas  
4 production activities and emissions, including by—

5           (1) providing technical assistance to State and  
6           public utility commissioners and officials, represent-  
7           atives from the energy industry, and other stake-  
8           holders from State, local, and Tribal organizations;

9           (2) accelerating the development and applica-  
10          tion of technologies and practices to reduce flaring  
11          and venting of natural gas;

12          (3) maintaining a database that summarizes  
13          the relevant flaring and venting regulations in each  
14          of the oil and gas producing States; and

15          (4) informing the States and other stakeholders  
16          of potential options available to economically capture  
17          and utilize natural gas.

18          (b) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date  
19 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall  
20 submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce a re-  
21 port describing—

22           (1) Federal, State, and local policies and regu-  
23           lations relating to natural gas flaring and venting;

24           (2) initiatives to accelerate technology solutions  
25           to reduce natural gas flaring and venting;

1           (3) barriers to the development and commercial  
2           application of technologies to capture natural gas  
3           that would otherwise be flared or vented; and

4           (4) recommendations to reduce barriers de-  
5           scribed in paragraph (3).

6           (c) TECHNICAL CONFERENCE.—In preparing the re-  
7           port under subsection (b), the Secretary of Energy shall  
8           solicit input from States and local governments and rep-  
9           resentatives of the energy industry, including by convening  
10          a technical conference and providing an opportunity for  
11          submission of written comments on a draft report.

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