



Building People Power for Climate & Energy Justice

May 4, 2017

The Honorable Roy Cooper
Governor
North Carolina Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Re: Emergency Methane Action

Dear Governor:

The 20 organizations and 20 faith leaders listed below are calling on you, as Governor, to take bold and decisive steps to minimize the impacts of climate change on the people of our state and its environment by reducing methane emissions from the fracked gas and power industries.

Natural gas is mostly methane. Leaking and venting of unburned methane from natural gas infrastructure – from well head to power plant – is now one of the greatest contributors to the climate crisis. Methane is 100 times more potent than carbon dioxide at trapping heat over the first 10 years in the atmosphere, which is the most critical time to act to avert the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

North Carolina is already experiencing severe impacts from the climate crisis and, without strong leadership at the state level, these impacts will accelerate beyond humanity's control.

2016 was the third year in a row to set the average global temperature record. The recent series of floods, droughts, and forest fires in North Carolina is unprecedented. Farms and forests are directly impacted. Communities along our rivers are being repeatedly inundated due to torrential rainfalls. Local governments along the coast increasingly face nuisance flooding and many areas will soon face massive property losses from sea level rise. The entire North Carolina economy is at risk.

Tragically, those least responsible for causing the climate crisis – low-wealth communities and people of color – are being hurt disproportionately.

Our resolution asks you to take three steps to help slow the climate crisis:

- Eliminate use of fracked gas in North Carolina;

- Reduce all natural gas use unless methane emissions are greatly reduced; and
- Oppose new gas-fired power plants and fracked gas pipelines.

Our state should be moving quickly to replace fossil fuels with cheaper clean energy resources – not toward a destructive energy future that relies on fracked gas.

The Trump Administration is going in the wrong direction, leading us further down the road to climate chaos. It is up to the states, through their governors and environmental agencies, to take the countermeasures needed.

North Carolina can be a leader by taking these measures to reduce methane emissions and slow down the climate crisis.

We will be glad to discuss our Emergency Methane Action campaign with you, as well as steps you and state agencies can take.

Thank you in advance for considering taking a leadership role in the global struggle to slow the climate crisis.

Sincerely,



Jim Warren
Executive Director, NC WARN

On behalf of:

Organizations

NC WARN
North Carolina NAACP
Clean Air Carolina
Food and Water Watch
Justice Action Mobilization Network
Forsyth County NAACP
NC Climate Justice Summit
350 Triangle
350 Winston-Salem
Beyond Extreme Energy (BXE)
The Canary Coalition
Abundance NC
Alliance for Energy Democracy
Soul Ash Pictures
Asheville Community Rights

Community Roots, Asheville
Camel City Dispatch, Winston-Salem
Temple Emanuel Environmental Movie Action, Winston-Salem
Winston-Salem United Against Hate
Mary's Gourmet Diner, Winston-Salem

Faith leaders

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II, President, North Carolina NAACP
Rev. Willard Bass, Green Street United Methodist Church, Winston-Salem
Rev. Curtis H. Brown, Greensboro
Rev. Alvin Carlisle, President, NAACP Forsyth County
Rev. Michael Carter, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley,
Black Mountain
Rabbi Mark Cohn, Temple Emanuel of Winston-Salem
Rev. Dr. Carlton A.G. Eversley, Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity
Rev. Dr. Lamont Foster, Stokes County
Bishop Todd Fulton, Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity
Rev. Curtis Gatewood, Acting Executive Director, North Carolina NAACP
Rev. Gregory Hairston, Stokes County
Rev. Nelson Johnson, Faith Community Church, Greensboro
Rev. John Mendez, Winston-Salem
Rev. Monroe Miles, Burlington
Rev. Lisa Mullen, Director of Christian Education, Kernersville Moravian Church
Rev. Philip Raines, Winston-Salem Friends Meeting
Rev. Karen Richardson Dunn, Creation Justice Network/UCC Southern Conference
Rev. Dr. Rodney S. Sadler, Jr., Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte
Rev. Craig Schaub, Parkway United Church of Christ, Winston-Salem
Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, President, North Carolina Council of Churches

Enc. Resolution to Slow the Climate Crisis by Reducing Methane Emissions from the
Fracked Gas and Power Industries

cc. Michael Regan, Department of Environmental Quality
Anthony Copeland, Department of Commerce
Steve Troxler, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Chris Ayers, North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff