



Maine Conservation Voters
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NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. SENATE VOTES TO MAINTAIN STANDARDS FOR METHANE POLLUTION ON PUBLIC LANDS ***Maine Senators Susan Collins and Angus King vote against damaging BLM Methane CRA***

AUGUSTA, Maine – In a close vote of 51-49, the U.S. Senate voted to maintain the Bureau of Land Management’s Methane and Waste Prevention Rule to limit dangerous methane pollution from oil and gas drilling on public lands. This is no minor issue—the methane gas wasted every year from drilling on public lands is equivalent to the climate pollution from 34 coal-fired power plants or 28 million cars. Conserved for use by homes, schools, and businesses, that is enough energy for nearly 12 million homes. Maine Senators Susan Collins and Angus King both voted with the majority to maintain these protections.

“On this incredibly important and divided issue, Maine Senators Susan Collins and Angus King both chose the health and safety of Americans over the profits of oil and gas companies,” said Maureen Drouin, Executive Director of Maine Conservation Voters. “Oil and gas companies are releasing millions of tons of methane pollution into our air, and these safeguards are the best way to begin protecting us from the harmful impacts of those pollutants. We thank Senators Collins and King for voting to reduce methane pollution and toxic chemicals from the oil and gas industry, in turn reducing dangerous smog, the number of asthma attacks that affect our children, and cases of cardiovascular disease and even premature death.”

Methane pollution alone can be blamed for a quarter of human-made climate change. Pound for pound, methane pollution traps more than 80 times as much heat on our planet in the short term as carbon pollution does.

“Warming waters in the Gulf of Maine and acidification have endangered our fisheries, Lyme disease from ticks and asthma attacks from air pollution threaten our health, and extreme storms and rising seas threaten to reshape Maine’s beloved landscape,” said Drouin. “With their votes today, Senators Collins and King are reducing methane pollution to help tackle climate change and its harmful effects on Maine people and our economy.”