



The mission of DRC is to promote sustainable use of natural resources and family-owned and operated agriculture by building enduring, democratic local groups that empower people to influence decision-making processes that affect their lives and communities.

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Federal judge blocks states' request to halt waste rules on tribal and federal lands

BISMARCK, ND – On Monday, a Wyoming judge denied the attempts to block the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) standards to reduce waste of natural gas on tribal and federal lands before they go into effect.

North Dakota joined the lawsuit against the rules in December, along with Wyoming and Montana. The BLM's rule is aimed at curbing natural gas waste and pollution by leaking, venting, or flaring on tribal and public lands.

Currently, more than \$330 million worth of natural gas is wasted through leaks and wasteful practices of venting and flaring. Per a recent [report](#), if the new rule is stopped, taxpayers could lose out on over \$800 million over the next decade on venting and flaring natural gas alone.

“At a time when we need to increase revenue for the State of North Dakota's growing budget deficit, our tax dollars are being used to oppose rules that would increase revenue to states and tribal communities. This is another tactic to defend the industry over the best interest of the people,” said Lisa DeVille, a member of the Three Affiliated Tribes and President of the grassroots group, Fort Berthold Protectors of Water and Earth Rights (POWER.) The rule would provide a standard that will help protect citizens in communities that are impacted by oil and gas production.

“The judge's decision is the first step in ensuring that these rules will boost protections to mineral rights owners and protecting our air quality,” said DeVille.

Several energy producing states, California and New Mexico, have filed to intervene in support of the rule, along with a group of 15 public health and environmental groups.

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