

To:

EU COM president Ursula von der Leyen

EU COM vice-president Maros Sefcovic

EU Commissioner for Energy and Housing Dan Jorgensen

EU Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Growth Wopke Hoekstra

EU COM Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition Teresa Ribera

June 2026

US Organizations Urge the European Union to Resist Fossil Fuel Lobbying and Preserve Methane Regulation

Dear EU Commissioners,

We, the 96 undersigned US civil society organizations and representatives of communities directly affected by heavily polluting and climate wrecking liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities, reach out to you to express our deepest concerns regarding your attempt to propose EU Member States to [exempt polluters from the penalty regime under the EU Methane Regulation](#) (EUMR - (EU) 2024/1787).

Since the [Trump-Juncker deal](#) of July 2018 when Trump adopted the same tariff-threatening playbook he's using now, the US has forcibly and rapidly become [the largest LNG supplier to Europe](#). Now, given the ongoing disruptions to Qatari LNG exports for which the US and Israel are directly responsible, the [US could account for 80% of EU LNG imports by 2028](#), despite being the most expensive for European buyers.

According to the 2025 [Joint Statement on a United States-European Union framework on an agreement on reciprocal, fair and balanced trade](#), both regions “*commit to cooperate on ensuring secure, reliable, and diversified energy supplies*”. However, the US has done absolutely everything possible to actively deprive Europe from secure, reliable and diversified energy supplies and is therefore in breach of its commitment. The Trump administration is using its “energy dominance” agenda to openly blackmail the Union into lowering its climate and [human right](#) standards, including on [methane](#).

Leading experts on the methane regulation have [countered the US government's arguments as overstated](#), also outlining that the [enforcement regime does not endanger EU energy security](#). They encourage the EU to stick to its methane rules, while energy market analysts encourage it to [invest in alternatives to gas to reduce exposure to volatile global energy markets](#).

The EU seemed to agree when it announced its [intention](#) to end the bloc's fossil fuel dependency. The necessary measures to make that happen, together with [projections](#) of gas demand reduction in Europe by 23% in 2030 mean the amount of gas the EU will need to import in the future will be significantly less than currently, minimising the need for LNG imports.

But all of that is not only about markets and supply chains. For us it's also about the dire impacts of US LNG export facilities and fracking production fields on our daily lives as well as the significant impact on the climate of the planet, which we and all future generations depend upon.

Indigenous peoples, people of color, and low-income communities living near LNG export terminals are treated as “sacrifice zones,” bearing the brunt of the impacts. Communities near LNG terminals and associated gas infrastructure are exposed to harmful air pollutants including NOx, particulate matter, and various hazardous pollutants (toluene, benzene, etc.), [known to cause cancers, respiratory illness, and birth defects through prolonged exposure](#).

All operational LNG terminals in the United States have [violated air pollution limits](#). LNG facilities are not only hazardous to nearby human health, but put communities at risk of [explosions](#). Additionally, the operations and the construction of US LNG terminals [have](#) had a dire [impact on the livelihoods of fishermen and marine ecosystems](#) in the Gulf South.

The structural human rights violations that are already occurring and are expected to take place in the future as a result of these projects are also enabled by the imports to Europe. The European Union has a responsibility in this regard. Implementing a strong and robust EUMR would help partially address these issues.

Directly linked and intertwined to those environmental and human rights violations is also the evidence showing [LNG exports displace renewable energy and drive up emissions, making them incompatible with a habitable climate](#). The high methane intensity of the US gas industry (including LNG terminals) has been very [well documented](#) and shouldn't be ignored. Meanwhile, in the US, the Trump administration has dismantled methane [emissions data collection, regulations, and enforcement](#), making the EUMR the last opportunity to apply methane intensity targets to US LNG.

The EUMR has been designed to concretely reduce methane emissions along supply chains and therefore tackle runaway and dangerous climate chaos, which partially already unfolds in a costly manner for our economies due to decades of unfulfilled promises and [misinformation](#) by the oil and gas industry. Without legal requirements, the industry won't move. It needs to be forced to do so and the penalty regime of the EUMR is the enforcement tool. Without it the whole regulation is worth nothing.

Europe still has the chance to lead by example! Now is the time to stand with us firmly against the bully attempts of the Trump administration by upholding Europe's methane rule and climate leadership.

Do not let polluters get away with sacrificing communities and driving the world into climate catastrophe. Let's work together on both sides of the Atlantic for a sustainable, liveable and affordable future. Please reject industry's pressure to weaken and exempt polluters from EU's methane rule.

We are available to discuss these matters in further detail to help inform your decision-making.

Sincerely,

1000 Grandmothers for Future
Generations
198 methods
350 Chicago
350 Eugene
350 Mass
350 Seattle
350 Silicon Valley
350 Yakima Climate Action
350Hawaii
350Juneau
A Community Voice
Alliance for Community Engagement
(ACE) SW WA
Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.
ARTivism Virginia
Better Brazoria Clean Air and Water
Between the Waters
Beyond Extreme Energy
California Communities Against Toxics
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist
Environmental Justice Ministry
Center for Oil and Gas Organizing
Center for International Environmental
Law (CIEL)
Central California Environmental Justice
Network
Climate Reality Greater Maryland
Climate Conversation - Brazoria County
Climate Reality Project Greater New
Orleans Chapter
Coastal Watch Association
Concerned Citizens of St. John
Concerned Health Professionals of
Pennsylvania
Divest Oregon: Reinvest in a Fossil Free
Future
Douglas County Global Warming Coalition
Earth Ethics, Inc.
Earthworks
Elders Climate Action
Elders Climate Action Maryland
Elders Coalition for Climate Action
Extinction Rebellion Houston
Fenceline Watch

Fisherville environmental action now
For a Better Bayou
Franklin County Continuing the Political
Revolution
Freeport Haven Project
Friends of the Earth US
Friends of The Narrows of Hans Creek
Greater New Orleans Interfaith Climate
Coalition
GreenFaith
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace USA
Gulf South Fossil Finance Hub
Habitat Recovery Project
Hip Hop Caucus
Houston Climate Justice Museum
Inclusive Louisiana
Indvisible CA Green Team
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy
Program
Kickapoo Peace Circle
Linnton Neighborhood Association
Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition
(MEJC)
Movement Rights
Natural Capitalism Solutions
North American Climate, Conservation
and Environment(NACCE)
Nuclear Energy Information Service
Oil and Gas Action Network
Oil Change International
Oilfield Witness
Oregon Physicians for Social
Responsibility
Our Revolution Massachusetts Climate
Crisis Working Group
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Pennsylvania
Port Arthur Community Action
Network(PACAN)
Portland Raging Grannies
Progressives for Climate
Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights
Protect PT
Public Citizen

Putnam Progressives
Quest For Growth and Development
Foundation
Rainforest Action Network (RAN)
Rinascimento Green
Rise Up WV
Risky Business
Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith
Save RGV
Seeding Sovereignty
Sunflower Alliance
Texas Campaign for the Environment
The Conversation 253
The Enviro Show
The Last Plastic Straw
Therapists for Peace & Justice
Third Act Texas
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Unitarian Universalists for a Just
Economic Community
UU Mass Action
Vessel Project of Louisiana
Virginia Citizens Consumer Council
Zero Hour