



# SIERRA CLUB

## DACOTAH CHAPTER

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## **Sierra Club-Dacotah Chapter Urges Counselor to Interior Secretary to Maintain BLM Methane Flaring Rule in Current Form**

**Bismarck, N.D.** (Sept. 27, 2017) – Vincent DeVito, counselor to the secretary on energy policy, will be speaking today at the N.D. Petroleum Council's annual meeting. He is responsible for policies related to drilling on public lands within the U.S. Dept. the Interior.

A crucial issue related to drilling on public lands, including thousands of acres in North Dakota, is the Bureau of Land Management Methane Flaring and Natural Gas Waste Reduction Rule. Earlier this year, Congress attempted to repeal the BLM rule, and discussions continue regarding the potential to “rewrite” it. The Dacotah Chapter of the Sierra Club supports maintaining the Methane Flaring and Natural Gas Waste Reduction Rule as it is.

Statement from Todd Leake, chair of the Executive Committee of the Dacotah Chapter of the Sierra Club:

“The Dacotah Chapter of the Sierra Club welcomes Vincent DeVito, counselor to the secretary on energy policy, to North Dakota. We hope that, with his visit to our state, he will see the value in maintaining the current Bureau of Land Management Methane Flaring and Natural Gas Waste Reduction Rule.

“The rule leads to the capture of valuable natural gas that can benefit the citizens of North Dakota and the nation, helps create jobs in the emerging

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clean energy economy, and keeps dangerous carcinogens out of the air our children and grandchildren breathe.

“The recently adopted rule was the result of an arduous public input and review process that involved testimony in North Dakota and allowed all parties with an interest in the management of methane on public lands to comment. The petroleum industry and North Dakota regulators had ample opportunity to provide comment and input into the current rule, and Congress recently affirmed it.

“The Dacotah Chapter of the Sierra Club strongly urges Counselor DeVito and Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to stand by the people of North Dakota and our nation in keeping the BLM Methane Rule as written.”