

# **NEW REPORT FINDS CUTTING METHANE COULD CREATE 35,000 HIGH-QUALITY, UNION JOBS IN TEXAS**

## **WHAT IS METHANE AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?**

Methane is a greenhouse gas that is more than 25 times as potent as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from a climate perspective and contributes to increased asthma rates. Texas is the largest methane emitter in the United States and the oil and gas industry is a major contributor to those methane emissions.

## **HOW MANY JOBS CAN TEXAS CREATE FROM CUTTING METHANE?**

35,000. Approximately 20,000 jobs will be needed to implement the standards in the EPA's new proposed methane rule and an additional 15,000 jobs will be needed to address methane emissions more broadly in Texas, including more than 5,000 jobs capping orphan wells. This represents a significant increase in oil and gas industry jobs, between 6% and 9% total.

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**“Methane mitigation has the potential to address a myriad of economic and environmental challenges and Texas has the opportunity to be a leader in creating high-quality union jobs in the industry.”**

**– Rick Levy, President, Texas AFL-CIO**

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## WHAT DO THESE JOBS LOOK LIKE?

The jobs created from cutting methane include long-term maintenance jobs, such as leak detection and inspection, and shorter-term replacement and abatement jobs, such as replacing pneumatic controllers and compressors.

## WHY IS IT CRITICAL THAT THESE BE UNION JOBS?

Union members are highly trained workers who can step right in and get the job done. It's critical that methane mitigation jobs be union jobs to ensure high-quality work and wages. These jobs have the potential to raise standards in industries often characterized by unsafe working conditions and unstable wages.

## HOW CAN METHANE MITIGATION CREATE HIGH-QUALITY UNION CAREERS?

By embracing the following strong labor standards and programs, we can create tens of thousands of high-quality union careers that contribute to healthier communities and an economy that works for all Texans:

- Workforce Development Boards
- Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements
- Project Labor Agreements
- Labor Peace Agreements
- DOL Registered Apprenticeship Programs
- Other high-road employment practices



## ABOUT THE TEXAS CLIMATE JOBS PROJECT

The Texas Climate Jobs Project (TCJP) is a coalition of unions from across Texas united to fight climate change and reverse income inequality.

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