

Bonnie Fiedor

My name is Bonnie Turner Fiedor, and I was born in Sheridan County in 1947 and have lived here for 74 of my 77 years. I have watched our climate warm, our growing season expand, and our weather become more extreme throughout our state and these United States. I was born and raised in Acme, Wyoming, nestled between coal mines, and my father, a miner, always warned me about the methane gas in the underground mine shafts and how they used canaries to tell them if the methane was present in high enough concentrations to kill a human. If the canary died, the miners needed to evacuate. Blue jays and sand hill cranes have now moved into our area, something I never saw growing up, and they're coming because our climate is warming in Sheridan and along our Big Horn Mountains. Maybe they are our "canary in the coal mine" telling us it is time to do something about methane pollutants and climate change.

As I write these comments, I am watching our beautiful Big Horn Mountains burn in the 62,000+ acre Elk Fire. Last week we had 97 degrees in Sheridan and the hottest September on record, unheard of heat for this late in the year, and this has helped dry our county's grasses and trees invigorating the Elk Fire. We have the technology to reduce methane emissions and create better air quality and slow climate change, and we need to do so now. We have waited long enough to see if this weather pattern is an aberration or climate change. Please strengthen our EPA rules and put us on the path to reclaim our clean air and slow this climate change before it is too late.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.