

## Ginger Stout

October 20, 2016 Administrator Air Quality Division 200 West 17th Street Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002 Dear Administrator: I am writing to express my support for the Wyoming DEQ Air Quality Division's recommendation to incorporate the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's New Source Performance Standards into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations. These rules are critical to reducing methane emissions and reducing other pollutants that impact the health and wellbeing of our citizens. While I strongly support the adoption of these important new federal standards, I would also like to see the state expand its strong state emissions reductions requirements in the Upper Green River Basin across Wyoming. I am especially concerned about the current flaring and venting of natural gas resources and the loss of this revenue source. I am a former principal with the Wyoming Girls School and Instructional Facilitator with Sheridan County School District #1. I spent my entire career in education. Severance taxes are vitally important to our state and local governments as well as to our schools. Flared gas is a non-renewable resource that is lost forever and severance taxes should be collected upon removal of the resource whether it is sold or flared. This is money that should be benefiting our schools and citizens today or in the future. Now more than ever, it is imperative that we do not let our resources be wasted. Wyoming's future depends on a highly educated populace which in turn depends on providing a first rate education. In order achieve this, Wyoming needs to hire and retain excellent teachers, keep class sizes as small as possible, ensure access to high-quality early education, keep up with the latest technology, and continue to develop and challenge Wyoming's next generation of workers, entrepreneurs, leaders, and innovators. Without a continued robust investment in education Wyoming will struggle to maintain economic competitiveness, realize economic diversification, and attract new businesses and industries. Providing opportunities for Wyoming's students is one of the most important things we can do for our state and our society. Given the current budget realities in Wyoming we need to ensure we are not overlooking any possible revenue sources. We need them all. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations on Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources found in 40 CFR part 60, Subpart OOOOa are very important for addressing air quality in Wyoming. I urge you to incorporate them into the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations and follow that up by strengthening statewide flaring and venting measures. Sincerely, Ginger Stout P.O. Box 3 Big Horn, Wy. 82833