



**Oil and Natural Gas Proposed Rule Addressing Climate Crises and Improving People's Health
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Virtual Public Hearing
November 30, 2021**

Good Afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Charmayne Anderson, Director of Advocacy for Allergy & Asthma Network. We are the leading national nonprofit organization advocating for the more than 50 million Americans with allergies and 25 million with asthma -- 6 million who are children under 18 years.

Allergy & Asthma Network strongly supports strengthening and finalizing the proposed methane rules to address the climate crises and maximize public health benefits.

Asthma remains one of the most serious chronic diseases and costly health issues (at \$80 billion annually) in the U.S. Approximately 3,000 people die each year due to asthma. Patients who suffer from asthma and other respiratory illnesses are vulnerable to environmental contaminants from air pollution and the adverse health effects of climate change.

The health impacts of air pollution are well documented by EPA and through decades of peer-reviewed scientific research. While even healthy adults are at risk from air pollution, children and older adults, low-income and communities of color are at greater risk from the negative health effects of poor air quality. These impacts range from asthma attacks, worsening of COPD and other lung health conditions.

We want clean and healthy air. Climate change is a health emergency and immediate action is needed to reduce pollution that drives climate change and harms health.

Speaking on behalf of all individuals who suffer from asthma and other chronic respiratory conditions in this country, I am here to stress the importance of healthy air quality and to also put a face on the disease. I have asthma. It has been a part of my life since childhood and three of my children live with it too. Life with asthma can be very challenging and the quality of the air we breathe is truly a matter of life or death. We need government to protect our air through strong policies and regulations.

In closing, Allergy & Asthma Network urges EPA to set stronger federal methane standards, eliminate loopholes to regular inspections, and end oil and gas industry practices that result in harmful air pollution to safeguard public health particularly those who live with chronic respiratory conditions.

Thank you.