

Good morning, Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. For the record my name is Representative Lisa Finley-DeVillie. I'm a member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara nations and I represent the people of District 4A which encompasses the Fort Berthold Reservation. I have lived in Mandaree my entire life and have been living with oil and gas extraction for 15 years. I am not against fracking and oil production and support responsible development as with any industry. I am here to introduce you to House Concurrent Resolution 3029 and why it is needed.

We are now in the 15th year of the oil and gas development program on Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. This resolution is intended to figure out what is in the air and water on Fort Berthold and to determine if further monitoring is needed on Fort Berthold or if other mitigation measures are needed to improve air and water quality. Presently Fort Berthold lacks any ambient air quality monitoring within its boundaries, despite having the widespread oil and gas development throughout the reservation.

As oil and gas development grew on Fort Berthold, I noticed a distinct change in our air and water. One day I saw a yellowish-brown spot on the snow near my home and wondered what was causing it. From my training in environmental science, it appeared to be related to air pollution, most likely from flares near my home. I also heard that more and more of my neighbors were coming down with respiratory illnesses and headaches, which are often caused by volatile organic compounds that come from flares.

As a result, I began working in my community to get to the root of the problem. I first surveyed my neighbors by going door to door, and then later formed an organization, Fort Berthold POWER to advocate for better air and water quality on Fort Berthold. Members of Fort Berthold POWER and I have advocated on the federal, state, and local levels regarding air and water quality rules. We have also examined air and water pollution from the caused by the oil industry. Specifically, I worked with researchers from Duke University to study the impacts of brine on our soil and water and worked alongside other advocates to use thermal imaging cameras to study and better determine what pollutants were coming from flares near my home. Both studies showed that Fort Berthold needed better monitoring, which is why this resolution is before you today.

Oil and gas production can have a significant impact on local air quality, with emissions from drilling, transportation, and processing contributing to a range of pollutants, including particulate matter, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and greenhouse gases. These pollutants can have serious impacts on human health, including respiratory problems, cardiovascular disease, and cancer.

While many oil and gas companies claim to be taking steps to reduce their emissions, it can be difficult to verify these claims without accurate and reliable data on air quality. Ambient air quality monitors can provide this data by continuously monitoring air quality in the vicinity of oil and gas operations.

These monitors can provide information on the types and quantities of pollutants being released, as well as the potential impacts of these pollutants on human health and the environment.

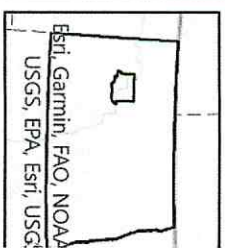
Ambient air quality monitors can help communities living near oil and gas operations to better understand the risks posed by these operations and take steps to protect themselves. Implementing ambient air quality monitors to track pollution from oil and gas operations is a critical step in protecting human health and the environment. By providing accurate and reliable data on air quality, these monitors can help regulators, industry, and communities work together to reduce emissions and ensure that oil and gas operations are conducted in a safe and responsible manner.

I will close by saying again that I am not against oil and gas development. I understand the agency that it has brought communities like Fort Berthold. I also understand that in order to responsibly develop a resource like oil and gas we need to fully understand the impacts, so we can work to mitigate them. I hope you will join me in supporting this resolution, so that we can better figure out the impacts occurring on Fort Berthold and work to mitigate them. The first step is gathering information and that is what this resolution will do. Thank you for your time, I stand for questions.

Fort Berthold Oil and Gas Wells and Horizontals



- Oil and Gas Horizontals
- Oil and Gas Wells
- ▭ Reservation Boundary



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