

**Revive Economic Growth and Reclaim Orphaned Wells (REGROW) Act of  
2021  
Senators Luján (D-N.M.) and Cramer (R-ND)**

“Orphan wells can pose a significant threat to the environment by emitting greenhouse gases or threatening our water supply. Remediating these sites protects our environment and puts people to work, stimulating local economies,” **said Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham of New Mexico.** “I applaud Senator Luján for co-sponsoring this bipartisan legislation that will benefit New Mexico’s lands and waters and workers.”

**Elizabeth Gore, Senior Vice President, Political Affairs, Environmental Defense Fund**

“EDF applauds Senators Luján and Cramer for introducing a bipartisan bill that will create jobs and protect local communities from air, water and climate pollution from leaky orphan wells. Over 100,000 oil and gas workers have lost their jobs in the past year and this effort will put people back to work while creating a healthier environment.

“This bill will ensure every documented orphan well in the U.S. is plugged, help identify and catalogue the hundreds of thousands of other improperly abandoned wells across the country and make sure when wells are plugged, they are plugged properly. This is an important piece of the overarching reforms – including reforms to bonding and other policies that prevent wells from becoming orphaned in the future – needed to reduce the environmental impact of the oil and gas industry.”

**David Willms, Senior Director for Western Wildlife and Conservation, National Wildlife Federation**

“There are tens of thousands of known orphaned oil and gas wells in the country that energy companies never properly plugged. The toxins emitted from these wells threaten our wildlife, water, air, lands, and the outdoor recreation economy. This long-overdue legislation will provide the money to clean up these sites on federal, state, private, and Tribal lands while also employing thousands of workers in rural areas. In addition to passing this common-sense legislation, Congress needs to tackle the root cause of the problem and fix the bonding system so that taxpayers aren’t left on the hook for future cleanups.”

**Rev. Mitch Hescox, The Evangelical Environmental Network, New Freedom, PA**

“As pro-life evangelicals, we have a special concern for the unborn. We want children to be born healthy and unhindered by the ravages of pollution even before they take their first breath. That’s why we are thankful to Senators Luján and Cramer for introducing bipartisan legislation that will defend our children’s health from the air, water and climate pollution from leaking orphan wells and create over 100,000 family sustaining jobs in an industry that has lost much during the COV19 crisis.

“We care deeply for all God’s children and caring for God’s creation, The Revive Economic Growth and Reclaim Orphaned Wells (REGROW) Act of 2021 offers hope for addressing one of the largest threats to abundant life for all and reducing one the greatest sources of carbon pollution.”

**Bill Midcap, Senior Policy Advisor , Rocky Mountain Farmers Union**

“Rocky Mountain Farmers Union applauds Senators Ben Ray Luján (D-NM) and Kevin Cramer (R-ND) for introducing the Orphaned Well Clean-up and Jobs Act of 2021. Abandoned wells pose a serious threat to groundwater used to grow the nutritional food we all need. These well leak methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that fuels climate change that leads to extended droughts, lower crop yields, and hotter, more intense wildfires. This legislation will reduce the threat abandoned well pose to rural communities while putting Americans back to work.”

**John Walliser, Senior Vice President, Legal & Government Affairs, Pennsylvania Environmental Council**

“Pennsylvania’s legacy of orphaned and abandoned wells is extensive, impacting public and private lands across our state. The Orphaned Well Clean-up and Jobs Act of 2021 would be a pivotal step toward meeting this challenge. The Pennsylvania Environmental Council applauds introduction of this legislation and urges quick consideration and passage.”

**Joseph Otis Minott, Executive Director and Chief Counsel, Clean Air Council**

"Clean Air Council strongly supports the Revive Economic Growth and Reclaim Orphaned Wells (REGROW) Act of 2021. There are hundreds of thousands of orphaned and abandoned wells in Pennsylvania alone, with the state facing an unfunded plugging liability of several billion dollars. These wells are a ticking time bomb, threatening our local environments and public health while releasing significant amounts of methane, an extremely potent greenhouse gas. That's what makes this legislation so critical. It will clean up our air, water, and soil while creating good-paying jobs and helping combat climate change. Clean Air Council also looks forward to working with state government in Pennsylvania to reform well bonding requirements so that this crisis does not simply repeat itself in the future."

**Amber Reimondo, Energy Director, Grand Canyon Trust**

“Orphaned oil and gas wells are a present and ongoing threat to the critical resources that communities rely upon, contributing to climate change, and to air, and groundwater pollution on the Colorado Plateau and around the country. It’s past time that these wells are properly plugged. The REGROW Act of 2021 gets this process moving and we look forward to additional steps to help prevent orphaned wells from being orphaned in the first place.”

**Patrice Tomcik, National Field Manager, Moms Clean Air Force living in Southwest Pennsylvania with oil and gas wells in her community.**

“Today’s introduction of the REGROW Act of 2021 by Senators Luján (NM) and Cramer (ND) is an important step to address methane and other harmful pollutants leaking from the 56,000 documented orphaned oil and gas wells across our nation. For far too long, children who live, learn, and play near oil and gas wells have been disproportionately impacted by the oil and gas industry’s pollution that puts their health and safety at risk while contributing to climate change. Moms Clean Air Force is eager to work on reforms and policies that will protect communities and our climate from the oil and gas industry’s legacy pollution.”

**Mark Allison, Executive Director, New Mexico Wild**

New Mexico currently has nearly 700 abandoned wells that are leaking methane, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, contaminating the land and groundwater, and harming public health. Senator Luján’s bill provides resources to plug and clean-up these orphaned wells and puts people to work. The REGROW Act is a common sense, practical, and solutions oriented bill that would address this significant and growing problem. We’re proud to support this bill and thank the senator for his leadership.