

EDF: “The AWRRDA is a targeted and timely bill that builds on progress made through IJA to tackle America’s abandoned well problem. This new legislation would enable us to find more of these old wells, reuse those we can for beneficial purposes, and close the rest less expensively – all while boosting the economy and creating jobs.”

Adam Peltz

Director and Senior Attorney

The Environmental Defense Fund

Natural Resources Defense Council: “Abandoned and orphaned wells are scattered across the country, with many of them unsealed and unaccounted for. The AWRRDA offers an innovative approach for locating these wells, better understanding the risks they pose to communities nearby, and, in some cases, even putting them to new, climate-safe uses. Even better, the research this bill supports could make funding already provided by Congress go even further toward cleaning up these wells.”

Josh Axelrod

Senior Policy Advocate

Natural Resources Defense Council

GreenLatinos: "Latine communities across the country, but especially in oil producing states such as California and New Mexico, have struggled with abandoned wells for decades. These old, leaky wells not only emit dangerous toxins that put the health of our families at risk but lower property values and land productivity. This important legislation will support critical efforts to improve well-plugging and land remediation, document more orphan wells, and allow for a more comprehensive understanding of the risks they pose to our communities. Now is the time to invest in front-line communities that face disproportionate pollution burdens on a daily basis."

Irene Burga

Climate Justice and Clean Air Program Director

GreenLatinos

Bipartisan Policy Center Action: “We applaud the bipartisan introduction of the Abandoned Well Remediation Research and Development Act (AWRRDA). This bill will build off the provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and increase DOE research to reduce leaks from abandoned wells that can contaminate groundwater and release methane. Remediating abandoned wells can reduce harmful emissions and contamination, protect human health, and generate new jobs. Technology advancements including remote sensors and LIDAR capabilities can help remediate the damage left behind as we advance more responsible domestic mining practices to address our global climate challenges.”

Michele Stockwell

Executive Director

BPC Action

New Mexico Wild: “Inactive, unplugged wells that have not been properly plugged or reclaimed are a major problem throughout New Mexico, on both public and private lands. It is our hope that this funding to DOE will help BLM and state officials identify inactive wells that need to be cleaned-up immediately. We thank Senators Luján and Cramer for their leadership and this much-needed attention and funding.”

Mark Alison

Executive Director

New Mexico Wild

Grand Canyon Trust: “We thank Senators Luján and Cramer for their continued leadership in addressing orphaned and abandoned wells. The AWRRDA provides critical funding to more accurately measure methane emissions as well as improving plugging and remediation of abandoned wells. We urge the Senate to pass this important legislation.”

Amber Reimondo

Energy Director

Grand Canyon Trust

Extra quotes are below:

National Wildlife Federation: “Abandoned wells leak oil, toxic chemicals, and methane – a powerful greenhouse gas – putting our land, water, and wildlife at risk. The Infrastructure and Jobs Act invested \$5 billion to plug orphaned oil and gas wells. The AWRRDA builds on this by investing in finding more wells, reducing plugging and reclamation costs, and finding alternative uses for abandoned wells. This investment will benefit our land, water, and wildlife all while creating good paying jobs and supporting rural communities. We thank Senators Luján and Cramer for their leadership in addressing abandoned oil and gas wells.”

David Willms

Associate Vice President, Public Lands.

National Wildlife Federation

Pennsylvania Environmental Council: “The Abandoned Well Remediation Research and Development Act (AWRRDA) would help Pennsylvania further address the vast challenges of legacy wells. In particular, this legislation will directly benefit the communities most impacted by abandoned wells by improved accounting of adverse impacts, more efficient spending of remediation investments, and inclusion in clean energy transition opportunities.”

John Walliser

Senior VP, Legal & Government Affairs

Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Moms Clean Air Force: “There could be over a million orphaned and abandoned oil and gas wells around the country and Pennsylvania has more than 200,000 wells unaccounted for— the most of any state in the nation. These wells can be located near schools, homes, and in parks where our children play. Living near oil and gas infrastructure, my family faces harmful air pollution impacts and allowing these wells to go unplugged adds to our already overburdened community. Moms Clean Air Force urges the Senate to quickly pass AWRRDA which will help better monitor methane emissions and improve the plugging and remediation of abandoned wells.”

Vanessa Lynch

Pennsylvania State Coordinator

Moms Clean Air Force

Evangelical Environmental Network: Abandoned wells threaten the health and lives of all God’s children, from unborn babies to our senior citizens. These wells spew methane, VOC’s, and other toxins into our air. Orphaned wells pour toxics and pollutants such as barium, chloride, volatile organic compounds, benzene, and arsenic (both known carcinogens) into our water supplies and the land. We thank Senators Luján and Cramer for the bipartisan The Abandoned Well Remediation Research and Development Act (AWRRDA). This critical Legislation will continue the work begun in the IJA and help address these legacy health threats by finding more abandoned wells while supporting good paying jobs.

The Rev. Mitch Hescox

President/C.E.O.

Evangelical Environmental Network

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union: Abandoned oil and gas wells often lower land productivity and can be a significant challenge for farmers and ranchers across the country. The Abandoned Well Remediation Research and Development Act (AWRRDA) makes an important investment in better measuring methane emissions, reducing well plugging costs, improving remediation practices, and protecting our land and water. It does all this while creating good paying jobs and supporting rural communities. We are grateful to Senators Luján and Cramer for their leadership on this important issue and urge Congressional leaders to support our farmers and ranchers by quickly passing this legislation.

Chad Franke

President

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union

Clean Air Council: “Pennsylvania has a growing legacy well crisis. There are hundreds of thousands of these unplugged wells spread across the state that are currently undocumented. These wells put our land, water, and climate at risk by leaking oil, toxic chemicals, and methane - an extremely potent greenhouse gas. The IJA allocated a historic down payment of \$4.7 billion to plug orphaned oil and gas wells, and the AWRRDA is a critical investment to find more of these wells, potentially put these wells to

economic use, and more accurately measure their methane pollution. We urge the Senate to quickly advance this important legislation.”

Joseph Otis Minott, Esq.

Executive Director and Chief Counsel

Clean Air Council