

Cheyenne Area Landowners Coalition

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Landowners to Governor: Stop opposing waste measure that could fund schools

CHEYENNE – Today, the Cheyenne Area Land-Owner’s Coalition (CALC) launched a radio ad campaign calling on Gov. Mead to drop his administration’s opposition to a U.S. Bureau of Land Management measure that would cut natural gas waste on public lands and generate millions in additional state royalty revenue.

“It makes no sense that Gov. Mead would oppose the BLM’s natural gas waste rule when it could generate millions of dollars in new revenue and help alleviate the huge budget cuts our education system is facing,” said Wayne Lax member of the Cheyenne Area Landowners Coalition.

According to a June 2015 report by [ICF International](#), upwards of \$42.5 million in natural gas is vented, flared, or leaked into the atmosphere on federal and tribal lands in Wyoming each year. That wasted natural gas means millions in lost revenue to the State of Wyoming, most of which goes to support the state’s education system as well as capital construction and local government.

Wyoming’s education system faces upwards of \$52 million in budget cuts including [\\$35 million](#) to K12 education, [\\$3.2 million](#) to family literacy programs, and as much as [\\$14 million](#) to the University of Wyoming. That number is conservative given [other higher education institutions](#) across the state are also looking at budget cuts, and Mead has called on his administration to make [additional budget cuts](#).

The five-figure CALC radio ad will run for three weeks on KRAN-FM, KRRR-FM, and King FM in the Cheyenne area. The radio ad campaign comes after two members of the Mead administration testified in opposition to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management’s natural gas waste rule.

Earlier this month, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality State Director Todd Parfitt testified before a U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources [subcommittee](#), and Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Supervisor Mark Watson is scheduled to appear this Wednesday, April 27th in a House Natural Resources [subcommittee](#).

The radio ad can be heard online:

<https://soundcloud.com/smoot-tewes-group/venting-and-flaring-radio-ad>

Full text of radio ad

I'm Marguerite Herman, a Wyoming mother and school board member, and what I hear worries me.

That's the sound of a gas well burning.

Too often, when the oil and gas industry drills on public land, they burn or vent natural gas.

And when that happens, they're wasting our money.

We could sell that gas, creating revenue for our schools and communities.

So why is Governor Mead opposing efforts to capture more gas and more school funding?

Our kids are facing \$52 million dollars in cuts to education in Wyoming.

But the Bureau of Land Management can help fix this by finalizing a strong rule on natural gas waste.

That means more funding for schools and college education.

It's just common sense - tell Governor Mead to support the B L M, and stop oil and gas companies from just sending vital revenue for the next generation of Wyoming people up into the air.

Paid for by Cheyenne Area Landowners Coalition.

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The [Cheyenne Area Landowners Coalition](#) (CALC) is an organization of property owners dedicated to protecting the financial and lifestyle interests of land-owners whose properties are impacted by mineral mining/extraction related processes; the COALITION is dedicated to protecting the property rights and lifestyle conditions of all land-owners who are COALITION members. CALC is an affiliate of the Powder River Basin Resource Council.