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Sent: Wed 10/05/2017 7:57:33 PM (UTC)
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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard [mailto:[redacted]@politicopro.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 3:44 PM
To: Swink, Suzanne
Subject: Heitkamp, Manchin tell Interior to suspend methane rule enforcement

By Ben Lefebvre

05/10/2017 03:40 PM EDT

Sens. [Heidi Heitkamp](#) (D-N.D.) and [Joe Manchin](#) (D-W.Va.) are recommending that the Department of Interior halt enforcement of an Obama-era methane emissions rule that the Senate failed to repeal this morning.

Heitkamp and Manchin surprised some by voting to block the Congressional Review Act that would have repealed the methane emissions rule. Republicans had hoped the two senators would join them in killing the measure, which uses royalty rates to push oil and gas producers to cut methane emissions from oil wells and pipelines.

But in a [letter](#) to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke dated today, the two senators say they still think the methane rule goes too far. They write that they agree with President Donald Trump's March executive order calling for a review of the rule and suggest that BLM stop enforcing it in the meantime.

"Begin revising the rule by issuing both a rule suspending enforcement and a replacement rule to correct the inherent flaws in the current rule," the senators suggest to Zinke as one possible action.

Interior said earlier today that it planned to revise, suspend or rescind the regulation. Such a process could take years, however, and environmental groups have said any drastic action from the department could face legal action.

WHAT'S NEXT : Interior is expected to issue a review of the methane rule.

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