AMENDMENT TO H. J. RES. __________
OFFERED BY MR. POLIS OF COLORADO

Strike “That” and insert the following:

FINDINGS

SECTION 1. Congress finds the following:

(1) Large quantities of natural gas are wasted during oil and gas production. Between 2009 and 2014, oil and gas producers on public and Indian lands vented, flared, and leaked about 375 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas. That’s enough gas to supply about 5.1 million households for a year.

(2) States, Tribes, and Federal taxpayers also lose royalty revenues when natural gas is wasted—as much as $23,000,000 annually in royalty revenue for the Federal Government and the States that share it, according to a 2010 Government Accountability Office report.

(3) The rule that would be disapproved by this joint resolution could save and put to productive use 41 to 56 Bcf of gas a year—enough to supply up to about 760,000 households each year. Overall, the rule would reduce natural gas lost to flaring by an estimated 41–60 percent and natural gas lost to
venting by roughly 44–46 percent (compared to 2013 rates).

(4) Methane, a powerful greenhouse gas about 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide, accounts for nine percent of all United States greenhouse gas emissions, and almost one-third of that is estimated to come from oil and gas operations. United States methane emissions are projected to rise substantially without additional steps to lower them.

(5) Such rule would reduce emissions that worsen climate change. The Bureau of Land Management estimates that the rule could avoid an estimated 164,000 to 169,000 tons of methane emissions per year, equivalent to 4.1 to 4.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions. This is also roughly equivalent to eliminating the greenhouse gas emissions from 860,000 to 890,000 vehicles.

(6) Using conservative assumptions, estimates of such rule’s net benefits could range from $115,000,000 to $188,000,000 per year. Benefits include revenues for operators from sale of recovered natural gas and environmental benefits of reducing methane emissions and other air pollutants.

DISAPPROVAL OF RULE

Sec. 2.
Add at the end the following:

NEW RULE

Sec. 3. Section 801(b)(2) of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply with respect to any rule that is substantially the same (including a rule reissued in substantially the same form) as the rule referred to in section 2.