



January 20, 2015

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Pompeo:

On behalf of our members, we are writing in support of H.R. 161, the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act. The bill would help expedite the construction of natural gas pipelines by providing for timely consideration of licenses, permits and approvals required under federal law.

Edison Electric Institute (EEI) is the trade association representing shareholder-owned electric companies. Our members provide electricity for 220 million Americans, operate in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and directly employ more than 500,000 workers.

The American Public Power Association (APPA) is the national service organization representing the interests of over 2,000 community-owned, not-for-profit electric utilities in 49 states. These utilities include state public power agencies, municipal electric utilities, and special utility districts that provide electricity and other services to over 47 million Americans.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is the national service organization dedicated to representing the national interests of cooperative electric utilities and the consumers they serve. NRECA's membership includes more than 900 not-for-profit rural electric utilities that provide electric energy to over 42 million people in 47 states or 12 percent of electric customers. Kilowatt-hour sales by rural electric cooperatives account for approximately 11 percent of all electric energy sold in the United States.

Electric utilities and their customers have benefited from the use of a diverse fuel mix. These benefits include the significant technological advances in natural gas production that have contributed to lower natural gas prices and a stable supply. As a result, natural gas generated roughly 30 percent of the electricity produced in this country last year. According to Ventyx Velocity Suite, from the beginning of 2000 to the end of 2014, natural gas generating capacity increased 127 percent in the electric power sector. Natural gas is going to remain a vital—and growing—fuel resource for power generation.

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Because of our industry's reliance on natural gas, it is critical that we have robust natural gas pipeline capacity throughout the country. Constraints in pipeline capacity adversely impact electric utilities' ability to use natural gas to help generate the affordable, reliable electricity needed to fuel economic growth and job creation in this country.

The electric power industry, which is the most capital intensive in the United States, is all too aware of the impact of delays in approving, permitting and siting energy infrastructure projects that are designed to benefit consumers. We believe it is critically important for federal agencies to ensure that they provide timely consideration of the licenses, permits and approvals needed under federal law for energy infrastructure projects. H.R. 161 represents an important step in holding the federal government to this standard in the construction of natural gas pipelines.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue affecting electric utilities. We are pleased to support the bill and urge expeditious action by the House to approve it. We look forward to working with you to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Kuhn".

Thomas R. Kuhn
President, Edison Electric Institute

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan N. Kelly".

Susan N. Kelly
President & CEO, American Public Power Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Ann Emerson".

Jo Ann Emerson
Chief Executive Officer, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association