



June 8, 2015

The Honorable Tom MacArthur
509 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cedric Richmond
140 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives MacArthur and Richmond:

I am writing on behalf of the American Gas Association (AGA) to express our support for H.R. 2295, the National Energy Security Corridors Act. AGA represents more than 200 local energy companies that deliver clean natural gas throughout the United States. There are more than 72 million residential, commercial and industrial natural gas customers in the U.S., of which 94 percent — over 68 million customers — receive their gas from AGA members.

H.R. 2295 would require the Department of the Interior (DOI) to create National Security Energy Corridors, to identify those corridors, and to incorporate those corridors into land use plans. This will require consultation with a diverse set of stakeholders, including utilities. With no limits on number or length of corridors and a mandate to designate at least 10 corridors within the next two years, it is imperative to have more guidelines to ensure that the DOI will put the corridors in areas where the corridors will have public or industry benefit.

In addition, we support legislative efforts to implement a 1 year time limit for approval of applications and believe that this limit will help the issue of project delays and will lessen any future additional costs to pipeline developers. With the increase in applications and the greater restraints on approval times, it is likely that more project applications will be denied with the implementation of the approval time limit, therefore, we find it necessary to define an appeals process for denied applications.

We look forward to working with you and your fellow Representatives in the House as H.R. 2295 progresses. Please do not hesitate to contact me should a question or concern arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Lowe".

George H. Lowe,
Vice President, Federal Affairs