

20 March 2024

The Honorable Jeff Duncan
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: "Fueling America's Economy: Legislation to Improve Safety and Expand U.S. Pipeline Infrastructure."

Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Jeff Duncan

Proposed language in the Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2023 includes provisions designed to streamline the permitting process for developers to modernize existing pipelines and construct new pipelines. We recognize that your members don't build interstate gas transmission lines, but can you talk about how more and improved natural gas infrastructure will benefit public gas utilities and the customers they serve?

Dave Schryver:

Nonprofit public gas systems are focused on delivering efficient and reliable energy to their millions of customers across the country at the most affordable rates possible; increased and improved natural gas transmission infrastructure will support this mission. 95% of APGA member systems are captive to one pipeline. At a time when natural gas demand is high, delays and inefficiencies in the pipeline permitting process threaten to derail infrastructure construction and expansion projects that would increase access to natural gas and importantly, ensure low energy rates for Americans. APGA supports the provisions included in the Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2023 to fix the broken processes and increase access to affordable, reliable, and efficient natural gas.

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

In your testimony you mentioned the importance of pipeline infrastructure in climates that are especially cold. Last week, Texas experienced a cold snap where temperatures hit below twenty degrees.

While the state of Texas is working diligently to address those problems and has shown proof that their solutions are working, how could an expansion of pipeline

infrastructure ensure the safety of Americans during storms and extreme weather events such as these?

Dave Schryver:

Expanding pipeline infrastructure to increase natural gas transmission capacity enables public gas systems to meet the energy needs of millions of Americans during high demand events, particularly when extreme weather threatens the outage-prone electric grid. APGA members have invested significant resources into their infrastructure and fuel procurement processes in order to be prepared for emergencies. When the power goes out, public gas utilities can still deliver natural gas directly to homes and businesses for heat with natural gas fireplaces, to fuel backup generators, and to cook food and boil water, ensuring Americans' safety during such events. Public gas systems need Congress to enact reforms to the burdensome energy-permitting process so that new and improved pipeline infrastructure can better enable them to meet Americans' energy needs in emergencies and at all times.

Sincerely,

Dave Schryver
President & CEO
American Public Gas Association
201 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Suite C-4
Washington DC 20002