



Founded 1889

**United Association** of Journeymen and Apprentices of the  
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada

Three Park Place • Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(410) 269-2000 • Fax (410) 267-0262 • <http://www.ua.org>

**William P. Hite**  
General President

**Mark McManus**  
General Secretary-Treasurer

**Stephen F. Kelly**  
Assistant General President

General Office File Reference: WPH

November 20, 2013

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Support for the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act (H.R. 1900)**

Members of the House of Representatives:

On behalf of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States, Canada, and Australia and our 370,000 members, I am writing to urge you to support H.R. 1900, the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act. This bipartisan legislation will improve the federal approval process for natural gas pipeline permit applications.

As the production of domestic natural gas increases and accounts for a greater share of the nation's electricity generation, we need to ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place to bring natural gas sources to market. Right now, the regulatory process can cause significant delays in the construction of critical infrastructure, even though the Energy Policy Act of 2005 establishes a 90-day deadline for the approval of applications. There are currently no enforcement measures to effectuate this rule and the process is further complicated due to the number of federal agencies involved in permit approvals. H.R. 1900 will give the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission additional tools to strengthen and streamline this process, while still preserving the environmental review necessary for each of these pipeline projects.

Our pipeline infrastructure is one our country's most important energy assets and we must continue maintain it if we are to enjoy the benefits of clean, abundant and affordable natural gas. Implementing H.R. 1900 will allow new pipeline projects to be built safely and efficiently, while creating good jobs, benefiting the environment, and making our nation more competitive. For these reasons, I strongly urge you to support this legislation.

Sincerely yours,

William P. Hite  
General President

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