



June 28, 2013

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Honorable Mike Pompeo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: EPSA Support for H.R. 1900, the “Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act”

Dear Representative Pompeo:

By way of this letter, the Electric Power Supply Association (EPSA) is pleased to express its support for H.R. 1900, the “Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act.” You and your co-sponsors are to be commended for introducing this legislation.

EPSA is the national trade association for leading competitive wholesale electricity suppliers, including generators and marketers. EPSA members are major suppliers of electricity in markets across the country. EPSA members are fuel diverse with among the largest portfolios of power assets using coal, natural gas, nuclear and renewable technologies to generate electricity.

As we discussed when I had the pleasure of testifying before the Subcommittee on Energy and Power on May 9, 2013, the competitive power sector is primarily responsible for the deployment of modern combined-cycle natural gas power plants beginning in the 1990s. Had those investments not been made, the power generation infrastructure would not have been in place when the shale natural gas phenomenon made substantial supplies of natural gas more readily available in recent years, altering the economics of various power generation sources.

EPSA strongly believes that all forms of electricity should compete on fair terms through well-functioning competitive wholesale power markets. Natural gas is playing an increasing role in power generation. Government and private sector forecasts conclude that this trend is likely to continue. At the same time, demand for natural gas is expected to grow for home heating purposes and in the manufacturing sector. The ample supplies of natural gas that can be produced economically to serve all these uses depend on a robust pipeline system.

In this regard, H.R. 1900 requires the various federal agencies charged with reviewing natural gas pipeline projects to complete their work and act one way or the other within a firm timeline. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has a strong track record of acting in a timely fashion in this area. However, as you know, other federal agencies have roles in this process depending on the route of a particular proposed pipeline. H.R. 1900 is an important vehicle to consider issues around pipeline siting so the nation has the energy infrastructure it needs to reliably serve customers, including those in the competitive wholesale power sector.

EPSA looks forward to working with you on this bill as the legislative process moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Shelk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

John E. Shelk  
President and CEO  
Electric Power Supply Association

CC: The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Ed Whitfield  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Power

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Power