



**American
Public Power
Association**

Ph: 202.467.2900
Fax: 202.467.2910
www.PublicPower.org

1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20009-5715

July 8, 2013

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
United States House of Representatives
107 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Pompeo:

On behalf of the American Public Power Association (APPA), I am writing to express our support for H.R. 1900, the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act. APPA is the national service organization representing the interests of over 2,000 community-owned, non-for-profit electric utilities. 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.

As you are well aware, there will be long-term implications from the greater use of natural gas for electric generation. Utilities are spending hundreds of millions of dollars to convert existing coal facilities, where possible, to natural gas or to construct new natural gas plants. They are also using natural gas generation to back up wind and solar power, variable energy sources that cannot be relied on to generate power at all times. However, it is not clear yet whether there will be sufficient infrastructure to accommodate this greater use of natural gas by electric utilities. There is a critical need to build new natural gas pipelines and to improve upon the existing infrastructure across the country. APPA believes that H.R. 1900 is a step in the right direction.

While the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is examining how to promote greater coordination between the electricity and natural gas industries, FERC lacks the ability to enforce other federal agencies to abide by deadlines related to natural gas pipeline applications. Therefore, APPA supports the language in the bill that seeks to provide FERC with the authority to enforce natural gas pipeline permitting deadlines thereby reducing waste, improving decision making, and diminishing the potential for conflict. APPA believes that this will help clarify and streamline the multi-agency inefficiencies associated with energy infrastructure development.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue affecting electric utilities. I hope you will feel free to contact me or the APPA government relations staff with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Crisson'.

Mark Crisson
President & CEO