



601 N. Iowa Street  
Lawrence, KS 66044

July 11, 2013

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

Dear Representative Pompeo:

On behalf of Black Hills Energy, I write in support of H.R. 1900, the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act, which was introduced on May 9, 2013. The aim of H.R. 1900 is to help expedite the construction of natural gas pipelines by providing for timely consideration of licenses, permits and approvals necessary under federal law.

As you may know, Black Hills Energy serves 110,000 natural gas customers in 59 Kansas communities with 140 employees. Black Hills Energy is a subsidiary of Black Hills Corporation (NYSE: BKH), a diversified energy company serving 769,000 utility customers in seven states. Our non-regulated businesses generate wholesale electricity and produce natural gas, crude oil and coal.

Technological advances, including horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, have fundamentally shifted our nation's natural gas supply and production outlook for decades to come. This newfound abundance has stabilized and lowered domestic natural gas prices which benefit utility customers, industrial users, electric generation and the environment.

New pipeline infrastructure is needed to match the increase in supply and production. A robust natural gas pipeline capacity throughout the country is critical to move gas to the places it is needed. Additionally, unnecessary delays in approving, permitting and siting energy infrastructure projects that are designed to benefit consumers is not a good use of time or resources. This is something we know firsthand as a company that undertakes and completes numerous capital intensive projects.

This legislation could help increase our nation's access to abundant North American natural gas resources, provide additional natural gas pipeline infrastructure and expedite federal government review and approval of these natural gas pipeline projects in a timely manner. Therefore, Black Hills supports H.R. 1900 and we urge Congress to approve the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Vance Crocker'.

Vance Crocker  
General Manager, Kansas Gas