



**National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

July 30, 2013

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

Dear Representative Pompeo:

On behalf of America's consumer-owned electric cooperatives, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 1900, the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act. This bill would expedite the construction of interstate natural gas pipelines by providing for timely consideration of licenses, permits, and approvals required under federal law.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is the national service organization representing over 900 not-for-profit, member-owned, rural electric cooperative systems, which serve 42 million customers in 47 states. NRECA estimates that cooperatives own and maintain 2.5 million miles or 42 percent of the nation's electric distribution lines covering three-quarters of the nation's landmass. Cooperatives also own approximately five percent of the electric generating assets in the country. All told, electric cooperatives serve approximately 18 million businesses, homes, farms, schools and other establishments in 2,500 of the nation's 3,141 counties.

Rural electric cooperatives use a diverse fuel mix to provide electricity to their consumer-owners. This portfolio includes fossil fuels, renewable energy, hydropower, and nuclear power. Natural gas represents an important component of this diverse fuel mix. Due to the role of natural gas in the generation of electricity, there is a critical need to ensure that the pipeline infrastructure supporting this fuel source continues to expand. The ample supplies of natural gas that can be produced economically depend on robust pipelines.

Currently, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) lacks the ability to force other agencies to abide by deadlines related to natural gas pipeline applications. As a result, language that provides FERC with the authority to enforce natural gas pipeline permitting deadlines will result in reduced waste, improved decision making, and better collaboration among agencies. H.R. 1900 will help to streamline the multi-agency activities associated with pipeline infrastructure development.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue, and NRECA urges the House to pass H.R. 1900.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kirk Johnson".

Kirk Johnson
Senior Vice President, Government Relations