



Thomas R. Kuhn
President

November 19, 2013

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Pompeo:

On behalf of EEI's member companies, I am writing in support of H.R. 1900, the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act, which you introduced and the House will consider on Thursday, November 21. The bill would help expedite the construction of natural gas pipelines by providing for timely consideration of licenses, permits and approvals required under federal law.

EEI is the trade association representing shareholder-owned electric companies. Our members provide electricity for 220 million Americans, operate in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and directly employ more than 500,000 workers. With more than \$85 billion in annual capital expenditures, the electric power industry is responsible for millions of additional jobs.

Electric utilities and their customers have benefited from the significant technological advances in natural gas production that have contributed to lower natural gas prices and a stable supply. As a result, natural gas generated roughly 30 percent of the electricity produced in this country last year. According to the Energy Information Administration, natural gas generating capacity increased by 96 percent between 2000 and 2012. Electric utilities expect natural gas to remain a vital—and growing—fuel resource for power generation.

Because of our industry's reliance on natural gas, it is critical that we have robust natural gas pipeline capacity throughout the country. Constraints in pipeline capacity adversely impact electric utilities' ability to use natural gas to help generate the affordable, reliable electricity needed to fuel economic growth and job creation in this country.

The electric power industry, which is the most capital intensive in the United States, is all too aware of the impact of delays in approving, permitting and siting energy infrastructure projects that are designed to benefit consumers. We believe it is critically important for federal agencies to ensure that they provide timely consideration of the licenses, permits and approvals needed under federal law for energy infrastructure projects. H.R. 1900

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represents an important step in holding the federal government to this standard in the construction of natural gas pipelines.

EEI supports H.R. 1900, and we urge the House to approve the bill when it is considered on the floor this week. We look forward to working with you to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Kuhn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Thomas R. Kuhn

TRK:kas