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**APGA Welcomes Energy Secretary Rick Perry**

Washington, D.C. (March 3, 2017) – The American Public Gas Association (APGA) would like to congratulate former Texas Governor Perry for his confirmation as Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE).

"As the longest serving Governor of Texas, Secretary Perry has a deep understanding of the energy industry and our energy policies,” said APGA President & CEO Bert Kalisch.

“Because municipal gas systems service the very citizens that own us, it is important that the Secretary understands how the many appliances DOE is trusted to regulate impact the American homeowner and small businesses. We look forward to working with Secretary Perry as he leads the agency to an era of greater energy independence” said Jim Hodges, Chairman of the APGA Board of Directors and Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the Middle Tennessee Natural Gas Utility District.

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APGA is the national association of municipally and publicly-owned local distribution systems. There are about 1000 public gas systems serving more than 5 million customers. These public gas utilities are not-for-profit retail distribution entities that are owned by, and accountable to, the citizens they serve. They include municipal gas distribution systems, public utility districts, county districts, and other public agencies that have natural gas distribution facilities.