

February 5, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The economic stimulus legislation, *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*, that you soon will be signing into law will promote a number of important, interrelated public policy goals, including preserving and creating American jobs, promoting economic growth and increased economic efficiency, and investing in America's energy security and environmental protection. The implementation of this landmark legislation offers an opportunity to take an important early step in promoting a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions attributable to United States energy consumption. Natural gas is a key energy source for fueling a national economic engine that is globally competitive, secure and environmentally balanced. Therefore, the undersigned associations and organizations request that you direct federal, state and private-sector entities that will be expending stimulus funds for the purchase of energy equipment and appliances, to ensure that such expenditures lower the carbon footprint attributable to energy consumption.

Without this direction, implementation of the new law will be guided by existing energy efficiency laws that do not necessarily address the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and carbon footprint aspects of equipment and appliance energy consumption. Consequently, the opportunity to utilize *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* as an impetus to advance GHG emissions reduction goals could be lost absent the direction that we request. In fact, absent this direction, the impact could be counterproductive if the funds made available under the new law are used to purchase low-tech equipment and appliances that, in total, result in higher GHG emissions.

Congress and your administration soon will consider climate change legislation that, when enacted, will require specific energy sectors to make significant reductions in CO₂ and other GHG emissions. Given the importance to the nation of achieving GHG emissions reductions, we urge that implementation of *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* encourage, not frustrate, cost-effective opportunities that reduce total energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions. Technically superior GHG emissions measurement tools already have been adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, used by national laboratories, adopted by the California Energy Commission, and included in Executive Order 13123 (June 3, 1999; revoked by EO 13423, Jan. 24, 2007).

We encourage you to provide guidance for the implementation of economic stimulus legislation that will make the most of this opportunity to take an important early step in promoting a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions attributable to U.S. energy consumption.

Sincerely



American Public Gas Association



American Gas Association



Interstate Natural Gas Association of America



Southern Gas Association



Energy Solutions Center



Council for Responsible Energy

cc: Carol Browner, Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change
Peter R. Orzag, Director, Office of Management & Budget
Nancy Sutley, Chairman, White House Council on Environmental Quality
Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Dr. Steven Chu, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
Steny H. Hoyer, Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
John A. Boehner, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
Harry Reid, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
Richard J. Durbin, Assistant Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
Barbara Boxer, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Jeff Bingaman, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
Henry A. Waxman, Chair, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy & Commerce
Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
James M. Inhofe, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
Joe L. Barton, Ranking Member, House of Representatives Committee on Energy & Commerce
Edward J. Markey, Chair, U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Energy
Independence and Global Warming