



AMERICAN PUBLIC GAS ASSOCIATION

November 24, 2008

President-Elect Barack Obama
Office of the President-Elect
Washington, DC 20270

Dear President-Elect Obama:

Congratulations on your historic election as 44th President of the United States. You have made clear that addressing the current financial crisis will be top priority in your administration. I applaud you for focusing immediately on this enormous financial calamity that is costing jobs and threatening American families. You have also indicated numerous times during and since your campaign that energy policy will be another one of your top priorities. As you know, there is an important connection between financial recovery and energy policy – the price of energy commodities like natural gas.

APGA is the national association of publicly-owned natural gas distribution systems. There are approximately 1,000 public gas systems in 36 states. Publicly-owned gas systems are not-for-profit retail distribution entities that are owned by, and accountable to, the citizens they serve.

As natural gas consumers, our number one priority is the safe and reliable delivery of affordable natural gas to our citizens at just and reasonable rates. In our view, the extreme volatility of energy prices, especially over the past year, has led to a lack of confidence and trust in the market's ability to set a fair price for consumers. A critical component to restoring consumer trust in the energy markets is greater transparency through increased government oversight and accountability measures from agencies like the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and others.

Thus, when considering appointments to these key federal commissions and others, we strongly urge you to appoint commissioners that are personally committed to restoring the primacy of consumer protection to their agency's mission. We understand that successfully addressing issues like global climate change and energy independence will likely mean increases in costs for energy commodities like natural gas. That is why it is crucial that the energy prices consumers pay are transparent and fair. Adding artificial and unnecessary costs due to lax regulatory oversight or an unwillingness to address dysfunctional market conditions will only exacerbate consumer frustrations.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Bert Kalisch
President & CEO