



AMERICAN PUBLIC GAS ASSOCIATION

March 17, 2009

Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

On behalf of the American Public Gas Association (APGA), I strongly urge you to bring the nomination of Gary Gensler to serve as Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to the floor for a full Senate vote as soon as possible.

APGA is the national association for publicly-owned natural gas distribution systems. There are approximately 1,000 public gas systems in 36 states and over 700 of these systems are APGA members. Publicly-owned gas systems are not-for-profit, retail distribution entities 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.

Over the last several years, APGA expressed its members' concerns about an increasing lack of confidence in the natural gas marketplace. We also expressed strong support for actions to ensure that consumers do not bear additional cost burdens as a result of inadequate oversight of speculative investment. Given his background in both the industry and the Treasury Department, APGA is confident that Mr. Gensler brings the necessary experience and perspective to the position. We are also confident that with his understanding of the marketplace Mr. Gensler will not be reluctant to act in the best interests of both American consumers and markets.

Energy markets are only effective if consumers and users believe them to be liquid, transparent and not susceptible to manipulation or abuse. A knowledgeable, diligent, fair and firm regulator is critical to ensure workable markets where both traders and consumers can have confidence. For these reasons, it is critical that the Senate act quickly to approve Gary Gensler's nomination as Chairman of the CFTC.

I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bert Kalisch
President & CEO