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APGA Opposes Udall-Landrieu LNG Export Legislation

Washington, D.C. (June 25, 2014) – Today, the American Public Gas Association (APGA) sent a letter to Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Member Senator Mark Udall (D-Colo.) and Committee Chair Senator Mary Landrieu (D-La.) opposing their recently introduced legislation, the Natural Gas Export Promotion Act of 2014, which would expedite the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The following statement can be attributed to APGA President & CEO Bert Kalisch.

“The impact of exporting U.S. LNG is clear. As every study on the issue has shown, exporting LNG increases the domestic price of natural gas. This means that whether you are a homeowner, small business, or large industrial enterprise, exporting LNG increases the prices you pay for not just energy but also the goods and services that have the cost of energy built into them.

“The Natural Gas Export Promotion Act would only exacerbate this price impact by forcing the Department of Energy (DOE) to make a decision on whether or not an export application to a non-free trade agreement (FTA) country is in the public interest within 45 days. This arbitrary, compressed timeframe will not allow DOE to conduct a thorough public interest determination on whether the application will harm U.S. consumers, the economy, or national security.

“The resulting rubber stamp process at DOE will reduce homeowners’ disposable incomes, harm businesses’ competitiveness, and will threaten the U.S.’ longstanding energy and national security goal of reducing its dependence on foreign oil by making natural gas vehicles (NGVs) less economical.

“Instead of exporting our premium fossil fuel, we urge Congress to pursue policies to promote the domestic use of natural gas and to export our advanced production technologies that will allow countries with gas reserves to quickly and efficiently utilize their own resources.”

A copy of the correspondence can be found at www.apga.org/correspondence.

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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.