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APGA Opposes Hoven LNG Export Legislation

Washington, D.C. (November 12, 2014) – Today, the American Public Gas Association (APGA) sent a letter to Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Chair Mary Landrieu (D-La.) and Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) urging them to oppose the Natural Gas Export Certainty Act of 2014 (S. 2638), which would expedite the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG). The bill is scheduled for a vote on November 13.

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

“The use of natural gas is increasing rapidly in the U.S., creating jobs, increasing economic growth, and helping to meet environmental goals. However, S. 2638 threatens these three critical policy objectives by turning the Department of Energy’s (DOE) public interest determination into little more than a rubber stamp for exporters and producers.

“The bill’s mandate of an arbitrary 45-day deadline for a public interest determination will not allow DOE to conduct a thorough analysis of the impact of export applications on the entire U.S. economy nor on the U.S.’ critical policy goals such as reducing our dependence on foreign energy. Policymakers should not be picking winners and losers in the U.S. economy, nor blatantly disregarding America’s critical policy goals to satisfy the demands of exporters and producers.

“I urge members of the committee to oppose S. 2638 and instead pursue legislation to promote the domestic use of natural gas and the export of advanced drilling technologies and techniques. In doing so, the U.S. can continue to reap the rewards of utilizing its premium fossil fuel, natural gas. ”

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.