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**APGA Cautions Against New York’s Unprecedented Statewide Ban on Natural Gas**

*Washington, D.C. (May 3, 2023)* – Today, the American Public Gas Association (APGA), representing more than 730 local, municipally owned natural gas systems in 38 states, issued the following statement in response to the state of New York’s decision to ban natural gas in new construction starting in 2026:

“APGA is disappointed by New York’s unprecedented decision to enact a statewide ban on the direct use of natural gas in new construction, which significantly undermines New Yorkers’ access to affordable, reliable and efficient energy. Natural gas serves as a vital source of energy for home heating, cooking and hot water — particularly for the low-income and vulnerable consumers who will be most impacted by this myopic policy.

While [60% of New Yorkers](https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=NY) currently count on natural gas to heat their homes, this law will shift the majority of that energy demand onto the state’s already-overburdened electric grid. Not only will this further exacerbate grid reliability challenges, it will also decrease energy efficiency. Nearly half of New York’s electricity is currently generated using natural gas. Since generating electricity from natural gas is less than half as efficient as using gas directly in the home, shifting demand to rely on the electric grid could actually reduce efficiency and increase residential emissions.

This new policy ignores these realities. We encourage policymakers in other states to recognize, as an [overwhelming majority](https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2022/03/01/americans-largely-favor-u-s-taking-steps-to-become-carbon-neutral-by-2050/) of Americans do, that an ‘all-of-the above’ energy mix, including the direct use of natural gas, is the only way to guarantee consumers’ access to the form of energy that best suits their family, budget and lifestyle.”