



AMERICAN PUBLIC GAS ASSOCIATION

July 7, 2021

Michael Hahn
Federal Register Liaison Officer
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585-0121

Submission via email to HFTORFI@ee.doe.gov.

Re: Department of Energy's Request for Information on Hydrogen Program's Demonstration Opportunities Aligned with Hydrogen Energy Earthshot Initiative, DE-FOA-0002529, 86 Fed. Reg. 30454 (Jun. 8, 2021)

Dear Mr. Hahn:

The American Public Gas Association (APGA) respectfully submits these comments in response to the Department of Energy's (DOE) request for information (RFI) pertaining to its Hydrogen Energy Earthshot initiative to enable low cost, clean hydrogen at scale. APGA supports DOE's efforts to better understand how hydrogen can lower the carbon footprint of natural gas in the United States while also creating jobs and providing benefits to disadvantaged communities.

APGA is the trade association for approximately 1,000 communities across the U.S. that own and operate their retail natural gas distribution entities. They include municipal gas distribution systems, public utility districts, county districts, and other public agencies, all locally accountable to the citizens they serve. Public gas systems focus on providing safe, reliable, and affordable natural gas to their customers and support their communities by delivering fuel, including potential future fuel, to be used for cooking, clothes drying, space and water heating, and transportation. These fuels are also used for various commercial and industrial applications, including electricity generation both in central plants and locally in fuel cells for micro-grids.

APGA believes that DOE should prioritize research and funding that allows for continued use of our country's valuable natural gas pipeline and distribution infrastructure and the continued employment of those that manage these assets. This existing network safely and effectively transports energy to a myriad of end users for varying applications, making it an obvious component for a potential, future hydrogen economy. More research to determine the best way to utilize hydrogen in the gas stream is needed. In addition, the United States requires universal codes and standards for the transportation and use of hydrogen, including in direct use appliances with varying blends of hydrogen. These are crucial areas to which DOE should direct its research and funding.

Thank you for your review and consideration of these comments. If you have any questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Schryver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "S".

David Schryver
President & CEO
American Public Gas Association