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**APGA Applauds Introduction of Critical Section 5 Reform**

*Washington, D.C. (June 17, 2021)* – The American Public Gas Association (APGA), representing more than 700 local, municipally-owned natural gas systems in 38 states, issued the following statement in response to the introduction of reform legislation for Section 5 of the Natural Gas Act.

“APGA applauds Congressman G.K. Butterfield (D-N.C.) and Congressman Billy Long (R-M.O.) for introducing critical legislation to reform Section 5 of the Natural Gas Act. If enacted, this bill would help keep rates low for Americans utilizing natural gas in their homes or businesses.

Public natural gas utilities work hard to provide their customers with affordable, reliable, and clean energy every day. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) lack of refund authority is a major challenge to keeping the cost of natural gas low for consumers who depend on access to resilient and affordable natural gas to cook and to heat their homes. A sample of just 10 of the most profitable transmission pipelines received $1.1 billion in overcharges in 2019. As FERC cannot grant refunds, those overcharges lead to higher prices that, in turn, hurt consumers.

Today’s actions from Congressmen Butterfield and Long will help Americans who use natural gas in their homes or businesses by reforming the Natural Gas Act to allow our members the same protection from unfair transmission rates that electric utilities have under the Federal Power Act. Parity within the statutes will ensure communities served by America’s public natural gas utilities continue to have access to affordable, reliable, and clean energy.”