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APGA Sends Letter with Energy Consumers

Washington, D.C. (March 28, 2013) – Today, the American Public Gas Association (APGA) joined together with the American Forest and Paper Association, American Public Power Association, Carolinas Public Gas Association, Consumer Federation of America, Industrial Energy Consumers of America, Louisiana Municipal Gas Authority, and the Process Gas Consumers Group to send a letter to Chairman Ron Wyden and Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, commending them for their recent letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) addressing Section 5 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and urging them to take the next step in the information gathering process with a committee hearing on Section 5 Reform.

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

“We applaud Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Murkowski for their recent letter to FERC regarding the outcome of the commission’s Section 5 cases over the past few years and inquiring about the commission’s specific consumer protection authorities under the NGA.

“As the recently released 2013 Natural Gas Supply Association study shows, interstate pipeline companies continue to charge unjust and unreasonable rates for service, which violates the NGA and costs homeowners and businesses \$3.4 billion from 2007-2011.

“Hardworking families and businesses ranging in size from the corner bakery to large industrial enterprises shouldn’t have to overpay for the transportation of natural gas. These overcollections harm homeowners’ pocketbooks and businesses’ bottom lines. We respectfully request Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Murkowski to continue their investigation into this issue and to hold a hearing on the matter as expeditiously as possible.”

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

APGA is the national association of municipally and publicly-owned local distribution systems. There are about 1000 public gas systems serving more than five 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.