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Washington, D.C. (February 14, 2012)- Today, the American Public Gas Association (APGA) sent a letter to Representative Edward Markey (D-MA) in support of his legislation the "Keep American Natural Gas Here Act" and the "North America Natural Gas Security and Consumer Protection Act." The former bill would prohibit the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG) produced on or transported over public lands while the latter bill would prohibit the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) from approving new facilities to export LNG.

APGA's letter lauds Rep. Markey's efforts to protect domestic consumers from price increases resulting from export and to ensure that the United States can take advantage of the unprecedented opportunity provided by domestic natural gas to reduce its dependence on foreign oil.

Bert Kalisch, President and CEO of APGA said, "Today U.S. consumers enjoy natural gas prices that are the product of both the newly available supplies of natural gas and the fact that our natural gas market is largely limited to North America. At these prices, natural gas vehicles are price competitive with gasoline, and natural gas is also replacing coal for electric generation both because of price and its clean-burning characteristics. If this trend is permitted to continue, then there is light at the end of the energy independence tunnel."

Kalisch went on to note that, "The large-scale export of natural gas via LNG will not only play havoc with the current supply/demand situation (and hence the price of natural gas) but also, because the price of LNG abroad is tied to the international oil market, will inevitably link the domestic price of natural gas to international oil markets, which are substantially more volatile and less transparent than our domestic market."

Kalisch concluded, “When important policies collide, nations must make choices. APGA submits that your legislation restricting exports of natural gas represents the wise policy choice at this critical time in our history.”

A copy of the letter is available at: www.apga.org/correspondence.