

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

The undersigned associations are writing to express our support for H.R. 2910, legislation introduced by Rep. Bill Flores (R-TX) to improve interagency coordination in the review of proposed natural gas pipelines. The legislation is scheduled for consideration by the House this week and has our united support.

The need for new energy infrastructure has never been more important, as new natural gas supplies have changed the market and presented new opportunities for our economy to take advantage of this abundant and low-cost energy resource. Unfortunately, the permitting process has become more protracted and challenging in recent years. While the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) generally acts in a timely manner on most proposed applications, roadblocks and delays are becoming far too common with other federal and state permitting agencies. We need a process that is fair, comprehensive, and ensures commonsense cooperation and timely decision-making.

H.R. 2910 would strengthen the role of FERC as the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for jurisdictional natural gas projects. The bill would also encourage concurrent review of permit applications by the multiple federal and state agencies involved in reviewing projects. The provisions of the legislation would improve interagency coordination, and incentivize the development of a single and more fulsome NEPA analysis by the lead agency, working in conjunction with other participating agencies. In short, the provisions in H.R. 2910 strengthen the original intent of NEPA and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 in advancing a coordinated review of proposed natural gas projects.

We urge the House to support H.R. 2910 in its current form.

Respectfully,

American Chemistry Council
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Forest & Paper Association
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
American Gas Association
American Petroleum Institute
American Pipeline Contractors Association
Association of Equipment Manufacturers

Consumer Energy Alliance
Distribution Contractors Association
Edison Electric Institute
Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance
GPA Midstream Association
Independent Petroleum Association of America
Industrial Energy Consumers of America
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA)
National Association of Manufacturers
National Gas Supply Association
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Ocean Industries Association
North America's Building Trades Unions
Plastics Pipe Institute
Power and Communication Contractors Association
The Association of Union Constructors