

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