



September 20, 2019

The Honorable Bobby Rush
Chairman, Energy Subcommittee
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton
Ranking Member, Energy Subcommittee
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rush and Ranking Member Upton,

The American Gas Association (AGA) is writing regarding today's hearing, "Building a 100 Percent Clean Economy: Solutions for the U.S. Building Sector." As the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy explores ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the building sector, any realistic plan for a clean and secure energy future in all sectors of the economy must include natural gas as a foundational fuel source. Instead of looking for single pathway solutions such as banning an entire fuel source, AGA encourages the Subcommittee to work to reduce emissions by focusing on how consumers use energy and its overall environmental impact.

AGA, founded in 1918, represents more than 200 local energy companies that deliver clean natural gas throughout the United States. There are more than 74 million residential, commercial and industrial natural gas customers in the U.S., of which 95 percent — more than 71 million customers — receive their gas from AGA members. AGA is an advocate for natural gas utility companies and their customers and provides a broad range of programs and services for member natural gas pipelines, marketers, gatherers, international natural gas companies and industry associates. Today, natural gas meets more than one-fourth of the United States' energy needs.

If the true intent of this hearing is to limit carbon emissions, Congress should not be looking at the source of energy but rather at how the energy is being used. The elimination of natural gas usage in federal buildings — or any residential, commercial, or industrial building — will not solve our current climate or other air pollution issues. What will impact the emission rates is changing how we use energy and prioritizing efficiency.

George Lowe *Vice President, Governmental Affairs and Public Policy*

One of the immediate steps that Congress can take that would have a lasting environmental impact is to reverse Section 433 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA). Section 433, which has never been implemented because of the complexities of interpreting this provision, limits and ultimately eliminates the use of natural gas generated energy from federal buildings by 2030 — causing uncertainty for energy providers and federal facilities. H.R. 2664, the All-of-the-Above Federal Building Energy Conservation Act, would reverse Section 433 of EISA while strengthening several existing federal energy management provisions to ensure large energy savings in the coming years, including enhancing energy intensity reductions; allowing flexibility in energy audits; and requiring energy managers to implement cost-effective efficiency measures.

Thank you for considering AGA's support for H.R. 2664. We look forward to continuing to share more about how natural gas utilities play an integral role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions as the Subcommittee on Energy works to develop comprehensive climate legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George H. Lowe". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

George H. Lowe,
Vice President, Governmental Affairs and Public Policy