



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 American Pipeline Contractors Association (APCA) represents construction firms, manufacturers, and distributors who build and maintain interstate pipeline systems. Every day, APCA members provide the manpower to build the infrastructure needed to deliver critical energy across the country. APCA supports the Promoting Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act (HR 2910), introduced by Rep. Bill Flores (R-Texas). The legislation would take badly needed steps to improve interagency coordination in the review of proposed natural gas pipelines.

It is clear that natural gas will play a critical role in meeting America's growing energy needs for generations to come. However, many parts of the country do not have the necessary pipeline infrastructure to meet the rising demand, making the need to expand our natural gas pipeline infrastructure more important than ever. Regrettably, important pipeline projects are often mired with extended reviews while acquiring federal, state, and local permits. Delays not only increase costs but often result in missed in-service dates, all of which obstruct the broad range of economic benefits derived from pipeline construction.

HR 2910 would strengthen the role of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as the lead agency to approve natural gas projects subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Additionally, the bill would encourage concurrent review of permit applications by the multiple federal and state agencies involved in reviewing projects. These provisions would improve interagency coordination and encourage a more effective NEPA analysis by the lead agency, working in conjunction with other participating agencies.

Federal authorizations, which are typically in the form of permits, would be required no later than 90 days after FERC completes its NEPA review. If enacted, HR 2910 would provide a sorely needed first step toward reaching the pipeline capacity needed to make the most of our abundant natural gas resources. We strongly support House passage of HR 2910, and we thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

William Schettine
President