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March 16, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Manufacturing Supports Energy Permitting Reform: 47 Natural Gas Pipelines Reduced or Curtailed Supply to Manufacturers This Winter Because of Inadequate Capacity

Dear Chairmen Lee and Capito and Ranking Members Heinrich and Whitehouse:

The manufacturing sector's economic growth has never before faced such a growing crisis as we are faced with today, due to inadequate natural gas pipeline capacity. The recent protracted cold weather has once again shown the fragility of our nation's natural gas system as 47 pipelines (see Figure 1) across the country issued operational flow orders (OFOs), restrictions, or curtailment notices to manufacturing companies to reduce demand in order to service the needs of homeowners, electricity generation, and LNG exports. Some manufacturers paid natural gas prices as high as \$154 per MMBtu. Prices rose so high that some manufacturing companies shut down because it was not profitable to operate.

When there is inadequate pipeline capacity, manufacturing companies are always the first to be curtailed. Curtailment can cost tens of millions of dollars per day per facility, disrupt operations, damage equipment, and impact supply chains for consumer, industrial, and national defense products.

One hundred percent of IECA member companies are from the manufacturing sector and their competitiveness is dependent upon the affordability of natural gas and electricity. Natural gas is used as a fuel and feedstock. The U.S. manufacturing sector consumes 26 percent of the U.S. natural gas. Most manufacturing facilities operate 24/7 and require reliable supply and at affordable prices.

Pipeline warnings or notices to reduce or curtail supply are now in both winter and summer, more frequent and severe due to higher demand for electricity generation and LNG exports. Increasing electrical demand by data centers, crypto currency, and the electrification of the economy are all intensifying the problem. Pipeline capacity increases are not keeping pace with demand.

We ask Congress to take swift and decisive action to address this urgent problem and advance energy permitting legislation to expedite the expansion of our nation’s natural gas pipeline network to serve our nation’s growing demand.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio
Paul N. Cicio
President & CEO

cc: Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioners
The Honorable Chris Wright, U.S. Department of Energy
The Honorable Doug Burgum, U.S. Department of the Interior

FIGURE 1
Natural Gas Pipelines (interstate, intrastate, LDCs) that have issued operational flow orders (OFOs), restrictions or curtailments this winter

1.	Adelphia Gateway LLC
2.	Ameren MO
3.	ANR Pipeline Company
4.	Atlanta Gas & Light
5.	Atmos Energy:
6.	Baltimore Gas and Electric
7.	Bangor Natural Gas Company
8.	Carolina Gas Transmission
9.	Columbia Gas Transmission Company: MD, OH, VA, PA, WV
10.	Constellation
11.	Duke Energy: OH, KY, SC, NC
12.	East Tennessee Natural Gas
13.	Eastern Gas Pipeline
14.	Enable Gas Transmission, LLC
15.	Enbridge Natural Gas Company
16.	Equitrans Midstream Corp
17.	Florida Gas Transmission Company
18.	Great Lakes
19.	Liberty Utilities
20.	Louisville Gas and Electric
21.	Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline

22.	Michigan Gas Utilities
23.	Millennium Pipeline Co, LLC
24.	National Fuel Gas
25.	Natural Gas Pipeline of America (NGPL)
26.	Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSO)
27.	NiSource
28.	Northern Natural Gas
29.	Northwest Pipeline
30.	Oklahoma Natural Gas
31.	Ozark Gas Transmission
32.	Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company
33.	Peoples Gas
34.	Piedmont Natural Gas: TN, NC, SC
35.	Portland Natural Gas Transmission System
36.	SEMCO Energy Gas Company
37.	Southern Natural Gas Company
38.	Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline
39.	Southwest Gas Corporation
40.	Spire MoGas Pipeline
41.	Summit Natural Gas of Maine
42.	Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company
43.	Texas Eastern Transmission Pipeline: TX, TN
44.	Transcontinental Gas Pipeline: VA, NC, PA, MD, NY, SC, GA Zone 4, 5, 6
45.	Trunkline Gas Company, LLC
46.	Vectren, Ohio
47.	Wisconsin Public Service