



PRESS RELEASE

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MANUFACTURERS SUPPORT SENS. BLUMENTHAL/HYDE-SMITH BILL TO PROTECT CONSUMERS FROM BEING OVERCHARGED BY INTERSTATE NATURAL GAS PIPELINES

WASHINGTON, DC – The Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA), along with a coalition of organizations, sent a [letter of support](#) for the Making Pipelines Accountable to Consumers & Taxpayers (MPACT) Act, [introduced](#) by Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS).

Paul N. Cicio, President of IECA, made the following statement today:

Interstate natural gas pipelines are monopolies and do not have any competition and are guaranteed a high fixed rate of return (12-13 percent). When the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) determines that interstate pipelines have overcharged customers, it is common sense that overcharges be refunded from the date they intervened at the FERC.

This bill would reform the Natural Gas Act (NGA) to allow the FERC to order refunds in section 5 rate cases. This ensures that the NGA functions as it is intended – to allow FERC appropriate authority to remedy overcharges with refund authority that is identical to the refund authority provided to the FERC under the Federal Power Act (FPA). Not only will this ensure consumers have proper recourse to recoup overcharged funds, but it also brings the NGA in line with the FPA and fairness to all energy consumers.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.3 trillion in annual sales, over 12,000 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.9 million employees worldwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through advocacy and collaboration for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: chemicals, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, consumer goods, building products, automotive, independent oil refining, and cement.