



PRESS RELEASE

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NATURAL GAS PIPELINES SCARE TACTICS SHOULD NOT DISSUADE CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR CONSUMERS TO BE REIMBURSED FOR OVERCHARGES

WASHINGTON, DC – The Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA) sent letters to the [Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources](#) and the [House Committee on Energy and Commerce](#) refuting the argument from the natural gas pipeline industry that reforming Section 5 of the Natural Gas Act would hamstring efforts to building new interstate natural gas pipelines.

IECA supports the bipartisan bill S. 4171, the “Making Pipelines Accountable to Consumers and Taxpayers (MPACT) Act,” which has been introduced in the Senate.

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

We are aware that the natural gas pipeline companies are opposed to this legislation¹ and are telling members of Congress that the legislation will hamstring efforts to building new interstate natural gas pipelines. This is simply not true. IECA is strongly in support of building new pipeline capacity and would not support this legislation if we thought that it did.

One hundred percent of IECA’s members are manufacturing companies who rely upon natural gas pipelines for supply of natural gas. We do not have an alternative. We have companies with facilities who are unable to get sufficient pipeline capacity to operate their facilities at capacity and/or invest in new ones. If demand is high and there is insufficient pipeline capacity, manufacturing companies are always the first to be curtailed. When this happens, we are forced to reduce operating capacity or shutdown and this costs tens of millions of dollars per day. Therefore, it is in our best interests to support the building of pipelines.

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.

¹ “Rate Dispute Escalates Between US Gas Pipelines, Shippers,” Energy Intelligence, May 3, 2024, <https://www.energyintel.com/0000018f-39e7-d00d-a7df-3df7b8060000>