



NEWS RELEASE

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INGAA president lauds House approval of pipeline permitting bill

WASHINGTON— Don Santa, president and CEO of the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, today lauded the U.S. House of Representatives' passage of H.R. 2910, legislation introduced by Rep. Bill Flores (R-TX) to improve interagency coordination in the review of proposed natural gas pipelines:

“We applaud the House for approving this legislation, which will improve the permitting process for interstate natural gas pipelines. Pipelines are a key to realizing the benefits of America’s natural gas revolution because they are the indispensable link from the supply source to the ultimate gas consumer.

“Despite the clear need for pipelines, the permitting process has become more protracted and challenging. While the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission acts in a timely manner on most proposed applications, roadblocks and delays are becoming commonplace with other federal and state permitting agencies.

“We hope the Senate takes prompt action on this legislation that will facilitate the responsible and orderly development of infrastructure, enabling consumers to enjoy more fully the benefits of America’s abundant and affordable natural gas supply.”

Santa noted that the bill would fulfill the original intent of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 by promoting a coordinated review of proposed natural gas projects. H.R. 2910 does so by strengthening the role of FERC as the lead agency under NEPA for natural gas projects within its jurisdiction. The bill would also encourage concurrent review of permit applications by the multiple federal and state agencies involved in reviewing projects. The provisions of the legislation would improve interagency coordination, and incentivize the development of a single and more fulsome NEPA analysis by the lead agency, working in conjunction with other participating agencies.

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INGAA is the North American association representing the interstate and interprovincial natural gas pipeline industry. INGAA’s members operate approximately 200,000 miles of pipelines, and serve as an indispensable link between natural gas producers and consumers.