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# Modernizing the Natural Gas Act: February 5th U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy & Commerce Hearing

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The Subcommittee on Energy of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce held a hearing on February 5th titled:

*Modernizing the Natural Gas Act to Ensure it Works for Everyone ("Hearing")*

The focus of the Hearing included:

- Natural Gas Rates
- Pipeline Siting Under the Natural Gas Act
- Eminent Domain
- Tolling Orders
- Climate Analysis

The Natural Gas Act ("NGA") requires any person who wishes to engage in the import and/or export of natural gas (including liquefied natural gas, compressed natural gas, compressed gas liquids, etc.) from and/or to a foreign country; to first obtain an authorization from the Department of Energy. The NGA also empowers the federal Energy Regulatory Commission to conduct a review of proposed interstate natural gas pipelines, coordinate environmental and land use permitting with other federal and state agencies, and determine when a proposed pipeline meets the "public convenience and necessity."

The witnesses included:

- **Cheryl LaFleur**, Chairman (Former), Federal Regulatory Commission
- **Susan Tierney**, Senior Advisory, Analysis Group, Inc.
- **Richard Worsinger**, Treasurer, Board of Directors, American Public Gas Association
- **Michael E. McMahon**, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, Boardwalk Pipelines, LP, (On behalf of the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America)
- **N. Jonathan Peress**, Senior Director, Energy Markets and Utility Regulation, Environmental Defense Fund
- **Jennifer Danis**, Staff Attorney, Environmental Law Clinic, Columbia University School of Law
- **Maya van Rossum**, Leader, Delaware Riverkeeper Network
- **David Bookbinder**, Chief Counsel, Niskanen Center
- **David Mallino**, Legislative and Political Director, Laborers International Union of North America
- **Gene Barr**, President and CEO, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry

A link providing a Subcommittee Staff Memorandum and the witnesses' prepared testimony can be found [here](#).