

Clean Natural Gas is Essential to Climate Change Success

Natural gas is increasingly the fuel choice for electric utilities which use natural gas to create electricity. Utilities will use even more natural gas under climate change legislation.



Photo credit: NASA: The Visible Earth

Studies of climate change legislation by the Natural Gas Council (of which the Natural Gas Supply Association is a member) have found enactment of such bills would drive up demand for natural gas by 20 to 30 percent.

The reasons are fairly simple: natural gas is cleaner burning than other fossil fuels and has become the fuel of choice for utility companies looking to quickly build new sources of electricity production. The computer models predicted that climate change legislation would speed the adoption of natural gas by major utilities for power generation.

While the Natural Gas Council's studies found that major climate change legislation would drive up *demand* for natural gas, other well-conducted studies by other organizations found that the same legislation would cause the *supply* of natural gas to decline. *To reduce the impact to supplies of natural gas, NGSA believes the point of regulation should be as close as practical to the point of emissions.*

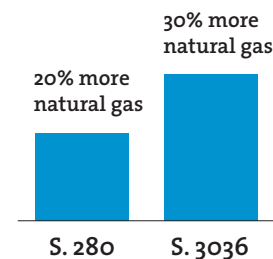
High demand and tight supplies will lead to higher price pressure. To reduce the pressure on prices, NGSA encourages Congress to keep America's coastal areas open for exploration and development, and open additional federal lands now off limits.

There is enough natural gas in the United States to heat millions of homes, fuel our factories, create electricity, and provide transportation for millions of Americans, but those natural gas supplies will take time and money to develop.

To contain future costs, Congress should make more domestic natural gas available now—because clean natural gas will be essential to the success of any climate change legislation. ■

Estimated increase in demand

In the 110th Congress . . .



S. 280 sought to reduce carbon dioxide by 60 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, while S. 3036 sought to reduce carbon dioxide by 63 percent below 2005 levels by 2050.