



NEWS

Contact: Mark Stultz mstultz@ngsa.org
Phone: (202) 326-9316
For Immediate Release: Friday, April 22, 2005
www.NGSA.org and www.NaturalGas.org

Statement By NGSA Chairman Joseph Blount Applauding House Passage of Comprehensive Energy Legislation

(Washington) ... "The Natural Gas Supply Association (NGSA) is grateful that the House of Representatives has once again taken the necessary steps to adopt a more balanced national energy policy," said NGSA Chairman Joseph Blount, president, Unocal Midstream and Trade.

"Although it is clear that this comprehensive bill is only a first step toward solving our supply and demand challenges, it will hopefully help resolve some of the longstanding policy roadblocks and inconsistencies that are keeping consumers and the economy at risk.

"In particular, we commend the patient leadership of House Energy and Commerce Chairman Joe Barton (R-Texas), Resources Chairman Richard Pombo (R-Calif.) and Ways and Means Chairman Bill Thomas (R-Calif.) for shepherding this package through what has amounted to more than four years of debate.

"Going forward, in order to serve the needs of the nation, the natural gas industry will continue to push for responsible access to more of our domestic resources, including non-park, multi-use federal lands. We know the Senate is also working hard to craft a bipartisan measure, and we support the diligent efforts of Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Pete Domenici (R-N.M.) and ranking member Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) to win adoption as soon as possible of their version of the measure. Hopefully, this will be followed by the necessary compromises that will allow Congress to get a final bill to President Bush's desk before the year is out."

NGSA represents integrated and independent companies that produce and market natural gas in the United States. NGSA is actively involved in pursuing regulatory and legislative issues that affect the association's members. Established in 1965, NGSA encourages expanded use of natural gas and supports regulatory and legislative actions that foster competitive markets.