



# NEWS

Contact: Melissa Marion [mmarion@ngsa.org](mailto:mmarion@ngsa.org)

Phone: (202) 326-9300

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, June 28, 2005

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## Statement By NGSA Chairman Joseph A. Blount Applauding Senate Passage of Comprehensive Energy Legislation

(Washington) ... "On behalf of major natural gas producers and marketers, the Natural Gas Supply Association (NGSA) salutes the Senate for taking this next critical step toward crafting a more balanced national energy policy," said NGSA Chairman Joseph A. Blount, president, Unocal Midstream and Trade.

"Such action is clearly necessary to help meet ongoing supply and demand challenges. Although comprehensive energy legislation should not be viewed as a panacea to resolve all the nation's complex energy issues, it is certainly an urgently needed milestone.

"For the past several years, customers – and the economy – have struggled with the burden of high energy costs. Additional supply, however, will be needed to eventually help alleviate heating and cooling costs – as well as to keep manufacturing jobs on American soil. Because the energy needs of the nation are matters of national and economic security, the natural gas industry will continue to emphasize the need for access to viable global and domestic resources.

"We commend the leadership and dedication of Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Pete Domenici (R-N.M.) and ranking member Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) in dealing with these challenging regional issues. We are hopeful that the noteworthy bipartisanship we've seen throughout the Senate's deliberations will continue as the measure is addressed during a House/Senate conference committee and then moves on to President Bush's desk for signature."

*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.*