



NEWS

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Contact: Sandra Crockett; scrockett@ngsa.org

Phone: (202) 326-9300

www.NGSA.org and www.NaturalGas.org

NGSA: Washington's "Head in Sand" Stance May Eventually Anger Natural Gas Consumers

(Naples, Fla.) ... Washington decision makers are ignoring natural gas, which could set the American public up for an unpleasant and costly surprise, R. Skip Horvath, president and CEO of the Natural Gas Supply Association (NGSA) said today. NGSA is a Washington-based association that represents large natural gas producers and marketers.

Congress has before it a number of climate-change bills, all of which result in carbon-based fuels becoming more expensive.

"Consumers can expect upward pressure on natural gas prices if Congress insists on enacting climate-change legislation without allowing for more natural gas supplies," said Horvath speaking at a Southern Gas Association (SGA) conference. The SGA is a Dallas-based association that represents more than 130 distribution, transmission and gas supply marketing companies.

Politicians are merging energy policy with climate-change policy without fully thinking through the implications of that combination, Horvath said. "The U.S. needs all its fuels – renewables, coal, nuclear, oil, and natural gas – but all the climate-change bills to date make assumptions about technology and timing that is, at best, uncertain," he added.

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Horvath noted that Congress has neglected to consider a range of possible scenarios. It is possible, he said, one or more of these technologies will not emerge exactly on Congress's timetable, or NIMBY issues could delay renewables, or carbon sequestration may end up more difficult or costly than anticipated.

It will then fall on natural gas to provide the backup on short notice. Providing additional access to natural gas supplies could go a long way in mitigating any unforeseen delays in bringing the new technologies online for the U.S. consumer. Congress must act now because it can take years after gaining additional access to get natural gas out of the ground and into the homes of U.S. consumers.

"Unfortunately, few in Washington are willing to admit that natural gas will have to be the backup fuel for any failure of future legislation to get the timing of new technologies perfectly right," he said.

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NGSA represents integrated and independent companies that produce and market domestic natural gas. Established in 1965, NGSA encourages the use of natural gas within a balanced national energy policy, and promotes the benefits of competitive markets to ensure reliable and efficient transportation and delivery of natural gas and to increase the supply of natural gas to U.S. consumers.