



NEWS

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NGSA.org or NaturalGas.org

Deep Sea Drilling Amendment Will Be Good for Economy and Environment, Trade Group Says

(Washington, DC) A national trade group for the natural gas industry is encouraging members of Congress to adopt an amendment that would allow deep sea drilling for natural gas and oil. A vote on the legislation is expected Wednesday morning during a meeting of the U.S. House Appropriations committee.

“An enormous amount of natural gas is recoverable from the Outer Continental Shelf. Opening up that area would send a strong message that Congress is serious about doing what it can to reduce energy costs,” said R. Skip Horvath, president and CEO of the Natural Gas Supply Association. “The American public is with us on this issue and we’re hoping members of Congress catch up.”

The amendment, sponsored by U.S. Congressman John Peterson (R-PA), would open up American areas that are 50 miles or more offshore. A Gallup poll released three weeks ago found that 57 percent of Americans support opening up new territories to drilling.

“Opening up new areas for exploration and development is not a quick fix, but needs to be part of a long term energy strategy,” Horvath said. “After the legislation is passed, it will take at least five to ten years to bring the first oil and natural gas to market. That’s just when we’ll need natural gas the most.”

He noted that several recent studies of climate change legislation have shown that natural gas will be an increasingly important part in achieving the nation’s greenhouse emission goals. Such legislation could drive up demand for natural gas up 20 to 30 percent over the next twenty years.

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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.