



AMERICAN PUBLIC GAS ASSOCIATION

September 15, 2020

Treena V. Garrett
Federal Register Liaison Officer
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585-0121

Submission via email to HFTORFI@ee.doe.gov.

**Re: Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office Research and Development Strategy Request
for Information, DE-FOA-0002379, 85 Fed. Reg. 48682 (Aug. 12, 2020)**

Dear Ms. Garrett:

The American Public Gas Association (APGA) respectfully submits the below comments in response to the Department of Energy's (DOE) Hydrogen Fuel Cell Technologies Office (HFTO) request for information (RFI) pertaining to its research and development strategy. APGA appreciates HFTO's efforts to better understand how hydrogen research priorities and goals can address evolving technology needs and inform related research, development, and demonstration activities that may be undertaken by DOE.

APGA is the trade association for approximately 1,000 communities across the U.S. that own and operate their retail natural gas distribution entities. They include municipal gas distribution systems, public utility districts, county districts, and other public agencies, all locally accountable to the citizens they serve. Public gas systems focus on providing safe, reliable, and affordable natural gas to their customers and support their communities by delivering fuel, including potential future fuel, to be used for cooking, clothes drying, and space and water heating, as well as for various commercial and industrial applications, including fuel for generation of electricity.

APGA has worked for many years with the industry stakeholder, the American Gas Association (AGA), and in this instance, would like to echo the comments they have submitted. Of note, APGA believes that HFTO should prioritize research and funding that allows for continued use of our country's existing natural gas pipeline infrastructure and the expertise of the employees that manage these assets. This current network already safely and effectively transports energy to a myriad of end users for varying applications, making it an obvious component for a potential, future hydrogen economy. Development of universal codes and standards for the transportation and use of hydrogen, including in direct use appliances with varying blends of hydrogen, are also crucial areas to which HFTO should direct its research and funding. With these prioritizations, HFTO can use existing American resources to more

effectively shape and grow a hydrogen economy into the resilient and affordable energy solution that it has the potential to become.

Thank you for your review and consideration of these comments. If you have any questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "David Schryver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Schryver

President & CEO
American Public Gas Association