

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dave Schryver, Executive Vice President

Phone: (202) 464-0835

Email: dschryver@apga.org

APGA Supports Blackburn Amendment

Washington D.C. (April 30, 2015) – This morning, the American Public Gas Association (APGA) along with the American Gas Association (AGA) and several other associations sent a letter to all House members in support of Representative Blackburn’s (R-Tenn.) amendment to the fiscal year 2016 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, which defunds the furnace rule released in March by the Department of Energy (DOE). Representative Blackburn’s amendment would prohibit DOE, starting October 1, from using any resources on the furnace rule for a period of one year, which is the 2016 fiscal year.

The following is a statement by APGA President and CEO, Bert Kalisch:

“APGA membership strongly supports Representative Blackburn’s amendment because it greatly benefits American natural gas consumers who use natural gas for their homes and businesses. By defunding DOE’s furnace rule, which requires all homes nationwide to utilize a high-cost condensing furnace, Americans can save money and also reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“APGA is a longstanding supporter of energy efficiency and will continue to be. In fact, the direct-use of natural gas is 92 percent efficient. If the DOE rule progresses, the high initial costs associated with installation and the additional venting requirements for condensing furnaces will push many residential customers—particularly those in warmer climates—to purchase and install potentially less efficient home heating alternatives. Therefore, defunding the rule via Representative Blackburn’s amendment is a win for America’s best energy resource and American energy consumers. Placing this rule on hold will allow stakeholders to engage in meaningful conversations to develop a proposal that will allow us to continue to promote energy efficiency while not adversely impacting homeowners.”

A copy of the letter can be found at www.apga.org/correspondence.

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APGA is the national association of municipally and publicly-owned local distribution systems. There are about 1000 public gas systems serving more than 5 million customers. These public gas utilities are not-for-profit retail distribution entities that are owned by, and accountable to, the citizens they serve. They include municipal gas distribution systems, public utility districts, county districts, and other public agencies that have natural gas distribution facilities.