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**APGA Opposes Senator Udall’s Methane Detection Legislation**

*Washington, D.C. (September 12, 2019)* – While the American Public Gas Association (APGA) and its members support legislation and regulations that meaningfully enhance pipeline safety, APGA believes the mandates included in methane detection legislation introduced by Senator Udall (D-N.M.) are duplicative of existing requirements. APGA is also concerned about provisions in the legislation that prescribe the use of specific technology, while creating unnecessary reporting burdens that do not ultimately improve the safety of pipelines, people, or communities.

Distribution pipeline operators are already required by regulation to regularly survey their infrastructure to ensure the pipelines are not leaking. There are several technologies available for use today, all of which are proven highly capable of identifying the location of a leak. This bill would require operators to use a specific technology and even specifies the type of vehicle they should use during the survey. The bill also aims to narrow existing reporting requirements for the unintended release of natural gas by sixty times the existing threshold. This would create a deluge of data; effectively making it unusable.

For these reasons APGA does not support Senator Udall’s bill nor its consideration as an amendment to the bipartisan S.2299 Protecting Our Infrastructure of Pipelines Enhancing Safety (PIPES) Act of 2019.

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*APGA is the national association of municipally and publicly-owned local distribution systems. There are about 1,000 public gas systems serving more than 6 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.*