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**APGA Encourages Massachusetts Attorney General**

**to Take a Holistic Approach to Achieving State’s Climate Goals**

*Washington, D.C. (June 5, 2020)* – The American Public Gas Association, representing more than 730 local, municipally owned natural gas systems in 38 states, issued the following statement in response to Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey requesting an investigation into the future use of natural gas within the state.

“*As Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey pushes for an investigation into the future of natural gas within the state, we urge her to take a holistic approach and examine the reliability and resiliency that comes when renewables and the direct use of natural gas work together to provide energy to homes and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Further examination will show that increased efficiency of natural gas and the use of renewable energy for electricity generation have led to energy-related carbon dioxide emissions hitting 25-year lows.*

*Moreover, with three times the efficiency of electricity at one third of the cost, the direct use of natural gas has an important role to play in helping states achieve climate goals. In communities throughout the country, including those in Massachusetts, APGA and our members are committed to finding new and innovative ways to reduce our environmental impact by making investments in renewable natural gas, allowing us to capture and repurpose emissions for energy use.*

*We all want the best environment possible and that’s why it’s imperative that the direct use of natural gas be a part of Massachusetts’ solution to meeting energy efficiency goals.*”

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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.