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**APGA Responds to CPUC for Order Instituting Rulemaking for Building Decarbonization**

*Washington, D.C. (March 20, 2019)* – Today, the American Public Gas Association (APGA) submitted comments to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in response to an Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) to begin crafting a policy framework surrounding decarbonization of buildings.

As communicated by the CPUC, the scope of comments can address any alternatives that could lead to the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with energy use in buildings. The OIR is related to California’s goals of reducing economy-wide GHG emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2045 or sooner.

In its comments, APGA states that the “inherent cleanliness, reliability, and affordability of natural gas, a growing domestic supply, and superior wells-to-wheels efficiency of natural gas equipment means that substituting gas for other fuels will reduce the emissions of greenhouse gas (GHG) and other air pollutants that produce smog and acid rain.” The comments also address the role that renewable natural gas can play in reducing GHG emissions while reducing the strain on the electric grid, supporting energy resiliency and keeping consumer costs down by eliminating the need for the replacement of appliances and the retrofit of homes.

A copy of APGA’s comments is available [here](https://community.apga.org/viewdocument/apga-comments-to-cpuc-in-response-t).

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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.*