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CONTACT: Dave Schryver, Executive Vice President

Phone: (202) 464-0835

Email: dschryver@apga.org

APGA Opposes LNG Export Legislation

Washington, D.C. (July 30, 2014) – Today, the American Public Gas Association (APGA) sent a letter to Senators Hoeven (R-N.D.), Barrasso (R-Wyo.), McCain (R-Ariz.), and Murkowski (R-Alaska) opposing their recently introduced legislation, the North Atlantic Energy Security Act (S. 2592), which would expedite the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Japan, Ukraine, and NATO member states.

The following statement can be attributed to APGA President and CEO Bert Kalisch:

“While APGA supports measures to increase production of domestic natural gas, the export of LNG to non-free trade agreement countries such as Japan, Ukraine, and NATO member states should not be pursued because it is a fruitless policy that directly and negatively impacts American businesses, families, and manufacturers.

“This legislation does not mandate that LNG be exported to Japan, Ukraine, or NATO allies. Private companies are driven by profit, so they will therefore sell to the highest bidder in the marketplace. According to the most recent data, the highest global price for LNG is in the Asian markets. Therefore, LNG exported from the U.S. will naturally go to the Asian market, where the greatest return on investment can be made for these private companies. Attempts to free foreign allies from dependence on Russian natural gas are thereby defeated.

“APGA does not believe that punishing American citizens and businesses through higher energy prices without benefiting our foreign allies is a good policy. Rather than exporting LNG, the U.S. should work with our allies to export production technology and best practices, so our allies can develop their own energy resources, and secure their own energy independence without a bailout from U.S. taxpayers.”

A copy of the correspondence 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 five 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.