



June 19, 2014

The Honorable Fred Upton
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Upton,

The Distribution Contractors Association (DCA) represents contractors, suppliers and manufacturers who provide construction services including installation, replacement and rehabilitation of natural gas mainline transmission and distribution pipelines, as well as water and wastewater infrastructure and fiber optic and cable systems in communities across the country. DCA supports the North American Energy Infrastructure Act (HR 3301), and we look forward to seeing your legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in the coming days.

The legislation would improve the approval process for pipeline infrastructure projects that cross the borders of Canada or Mexico. While the usual concerns over environmental review provided by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been expressed, HR 3301 would provide for NEPA analysis currently required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and all related environmental and land-use permits.

Passage of the legislation would result in expedited authorization of construction of natural gas pipelines, services provided by DCA members every day. Providing certainty and consistency to the permitting process for cross-border projects is critical as North American countries are coordinating and enhancing efforts to meet energy demand and make the most of the abundant resources that modern technology and industry practices allow us to employ.

As you know, the U.S. is already producing a surplus of natural gas and neighboring Canada continues to develop significant amounts of energy. Congress should do whatever possible to improve the review and permitting process, which often obstructs critical projects from getting off the ground. As provided in other important legislation addressing the problems related to the natural gas pipeline permitting process, enactment of HR 3301 would mitigate the uncertainty regarding the federal cross-border permit authority, which currently relies on several Executive Orders.

DCA applauds you for your leadership in introducing and advancing this legislation, and we look forward to working with you to see its enactment this year.

Sincerely,

Robert Darden
Executive Vice President