



David N. Parker
President and CEO
P: 202-824-7111

June 8, 2009

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
703 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
709 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Bingaman and Ranking Member Murkowski:

On behalf of the more than 70 million residential, commercial and industrial consumers of natural gas, I urge you to support Senator Byron Dorgan's anticipated amendment to expand access to new domestic reserves of natural gas on the nation's Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The amendment will provide access to the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, which is known to have vast resources of natural gas that are close to existing pipelines and other vital infrastructure. The American Gas Association strongly supports the development of these new reserves and the Dorgan amendment, which will expedite their production and delivery to the nation's consumers.

The increased use of natural gas in homes, businesses and industries is a big part of the solution to overcoming the nation's energy and environmental challenges. In fact, increased direct use of natural gas by consumers can lead to significant gains in energy efficiency and decreased carbon emissions. Advances in gas-fueled technologies, such as combined-heat-and-power systems, may lead to even further efficiencies and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. However, technological progress and environmental preservation depend on ensuring future domestic supplies of natural gas.

Again, on behalf of the nation's local gas utilities and their combined 171 million customers, I urge you to support the Dorgan amendment to increase access to our domestic, offshore energy resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David N. Parker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David N. Parker

Cc: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee