

GS-1 Natural Gas Plays a Foundational Role in America's Affordable, Reliable, and Clean Energy Future

Whereas United States (U.S.) natural gas is an abundant and secure domestic energy source that supports over 4.1 million jobs and is currently used by 60 percent of American households for home heating, water heating, and/or cooking;

Whereas residential and commercial use comprise 24 percent of all natural gas consumed in the U.S.;

Whereas in 2024, over 28 percent of the natural gas consumed in the U.S. was used by industry, including as a reliable fuel for manufacturing products like steel, cement, glass, pharmaceuticals, and fertilizers;

Whereas in 2023, natural gas powered over 43 percent of America's electricity, followed by nuclear power (18 percent), coal (16 percent), wind (10 percent), hydropower (5 percent), and solar (4 percent);

Whereas the U.S. Energy Information Administration found that coal to natural gas switching across the country is directly responsible for more than 61 percent of America's carbon emission reductions since 2005;

Whereas the U.S., in less than a decade, has become the world's largest natural gas exporter; these exports have provided security to America's democratic allies by delivering reliable energy and have reduced emissions worldwide by replacing fast-growing coal use in developing countries;

Whereas natural gas, as a fuel source used for the generation of electricity, has desirable attributes in that it is dispatchable, making it well-suited as a baseload resource that can support the affordability, reliability, and resource adequacy of the electric system;

Whereas power demand across the U.S. is skyrocketing amidst growing energy needs from artificial intelligence, data centers, and electrification policies, even as new power generation has not kept up due in part to state and federal policy and permitting challenges, creating supply and demand pressures that are driving power prices up for all consumers and ratepayers;

Whereas natural gas will continue to be needed to meet these growing power needs, yet while natural gas demand has increased over the last 10 years by 43 percent, its associated pipeline infrastructure has only grown 25 percent and its associated storage has only grown 2 percent, suggesting looming supply-and-demand bottlenecks that will impact reliability and could raise costs;

Whereas a 2025 Progressive Policy Institute report found that an energy future without natural gas disproportionately harms low-income communities, which are more likely to struggle to pay for food and medicine due to rising energy bills; *and*

Whereas public opinion polling shows that 68 percent of Americans agree with using a mix of fossil fuels and renewables to meet our energy needs; *now, therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its 2025 Annual Meeting and Education Conference in Seattle, recognizes that natural gas is a foundational source of energy that has contributed to a 20-year trend of driving down carbon emissions, and can support responsible growth in carbon-free sources like wind, solar and battery

technology, working with existing technologies like nuclear and hydroelectric power, without sacrificing reliability and affordability for businesses and residential consumers, particularly marginalized communities; and NARUC supports the continued investment in energy infrastructure including natural gas, that will be necessary to keep energy costs affordable while meeting growing demands in the years ahead; and that Congress and federal regulators must act to streamline permitting reform for wires, natural gas pipelines and other energy infrastructure alike as soon as possible to speed up construction of energy assets that strengthens America's economy, ensures a more reliable grid, leverages secure American energy, lowers costs for consumers, and creates meaningful American jobs.

Passed by the Committee on Gas on November 10, 2025.

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on November 11, 2025.