



Keith McCoy
Vice President
Energy and Resources Policy

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman and Ranking Member Barton:

On behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the nation's largest industrial trade association, I urge you to oppose any amendment offered during markup of the Assistance, Quality and Affordability Act that will impose additional permitting requirements on processes necessary to access domestic supplies of clean-burning natural gas.

The amendment – which I understand may be offered by Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) – is expected to include language taken from H.R. 2766, and will seek to rewrite the Safe Drinking Water Act in a manner that will limit energy producers' ability to deploy a key technology, known as hydraulic fracturing, which is needed to access abundant energy resources from shale formations onshore. Congress is already addressing this energy extraction technique by commissioning EPA to perform a study that will assess the environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing, a process it found to be safe as a result of a study performed in 2004. If the committee adopts such an amendment, it will undermine congressional and EPA action already initiated to address the issue, while limiting the manufacturing sector's ability to access domestic energy and grow jobs.

Manufacturers rely on natural gas not only as a source of electricity, but as a feedstock for products such as plastics, fertilizer and pharmaceuticals. U.S. manufacturers use approximately one-third of the nation's natural gas supplies. Because natural gas is a regional commodity, U.S. manufacturers need reliable and increased access to domestic supplies, especially to the large reserves contained in the nation's natural gas shale formations.

Please support amendments that provides incentives to develop domestic energy supplies and oppose amendments that may further restrict domestic energy supplies. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Keith W. McCoy'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K' and 'M'.