

RESOLUTION OF THE CAROLINAS PUBLIC GAS ASSOCIATION

The Value of the Direct Use of Natural Gas

Preamble: Natural gas is reliable, clean, domestic, abundant, and affordable. It is made available to customers via an efficient production and delivery network, using tried-and-true methods enhanced by state-of-the-art technology.

Over the last few years, natural gas surpassed coal and is now, by far, the largest source of fuel for electric generation in America. For many years, environmental interests generally supported the use of natural gas because it was so much cleaner and more efficient than the burning of coal, but now that the use of coal is waning, some of those same interests have now begun to attack natural gas. These attacks and their inaccuracies are starting to change the perception by some Americans of natural gas as the smart and strategic energy source to drive our nation's economy forward.

Although the U.S. is producing record quantities of low-cost natural gas and many consumers are still converting from other fuels to natural gas to lower their energy costs, the direct use of natural gas in homes and businesses faces an increasing number of challenges on several fronts. The mixed messages from some policymakers are both perplexing and concerning. On one hand, they tout the benefits of low-cost natural gas and the important role it is playing in America's economy; on the other, certain federal agencies and states promulgate rules or articulate policies that either discourage the direct use of natural gas or promote fuel switching away from natural gas. Such mandated fuel switching can lead to higher costs for consumers, less resiliency, and less efficient use of our energy resources. Another challenge to natural gas direct use comes from those advocating for changes in consensus codes and standards to promote the use of electric technologies over natural gas technologies.

National legislative and regulatory policies, as well as codes and standards, should recognize the value of natural gas as a critical component in the overall strategy to reduce emissions and should support its use as a clean, reliable, affordable, and plentiful domestic energy resource. Therefore, the Carolinas Public Gas Association (CPGA) hereby adopts the following resolution:

WHEREAS, protection of the environment and the public is a priority for CPGA members;

WHEREAS, the direct use of natural gas on a primary energy basis is 92 percent efficient;

WHEREAS, the direct use of natural gas faces challenges that fail to consider that natural gas is clean, efficient, safe, abundant, domestically produced, and affordable;

WHEREAS, substituting natural gas for other fuels such as coal reduces pollutant emissions that produce smog, acid rain, and exacerbate the global climate change. (For example, using natural gas-fired water heaters for homes instead of electric resistance water heaters ultimately reduces greenhouse gas emissions by one-half to two-thirds); and

WHEREAS, the direct use of natural gas in homes and businesses reduces demand for other, more carbon intensive, forms of energy and can reduce net carbon emissions;

WHEREAS, the use of natural gas in electric generation ensures reliability of supply and grid balancing during fluctuations in generation from wind and solar facilities;

WHEREAS, the direct use of natural gas reduces risks to energy reliability, resilience, and security caused by severe weather events and terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the environmental and security benefits afforded by the direct use of natural gas, the economic benefits resulting from this domestic energy resource allows CPGA members to offer a lower cost product that creates a competitive advantage in both national and international markets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The CPGA believes a balanced and diverse portfolio of reliable supplies of affordable energy is essential for the continued health, welfare, and success of individuals, businesses, and our nation as a whole;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The CPGA supports legislation, regulation, and consensus codes that encourage the direct use of natural gas as an essential part of that portfolio and opposes those that would have the opposite effect;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The CPGA will communicate to local, state, and federal policymakers the many environmental and economic advantages and benefits of the direct use of natural gas as an energy resource;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The CPGA will inform these entities about how any proposed laws, rules, or regulations that would diminish the role of natural gas in our nation's energy portfolio will harm American consumers specifically and the economy and environment in general;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The CPGA will advocate for assessments of decarbonization initiatives to quantify their cost impacts on different classes of end-users, as well as to evaluate the full life-cycle environmental and social justice impacts of all energy sources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The CPGA will provide fact-based public information explaining the key role of natural gas, as a clean, affordable, domestically-produced fuel in achieving our goals to reduce emissions in a less carbon intensive, but energy abundant, future for the United States.