



## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **“Mr. Pickens, we are not special interests...You are.”**

**IECA Responds to T. Boone Pickens Politico Op-Ed**  
<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1211/70070.html>

As energy intensive manufacturers whose competitiveness is dependent upon the price of natural gas and natural gas-fired power generation, we are employers and taxpayers – not special interests. We compete with fierce - often subsidized international competition to survive. Sometimes, we do not succeed. Over the last 10 years we lost 5.7 million or 33 percent of our manufacturing jobs in part, because of natural gas prices. From 1999 to 2008 our natural gas prices tripled before they finally retreated.

If natural gas and electricity prices rise because of government intervention in the natural gas market through legislation like S. 1863, the New Alternative Transportation to Give Americans Solutions Act of 2011, we lose competitiveness and risk more job losses.

You, on the other hand, personally benefit financially from greater use of natural gas in the transportation market because of your investments. Clearly, you are a “special interest.” Natural gas prices are substantially below gasoline and diesel prices. If the consumer wants to buy, they already have the incentives to do so and do not need additional incentives. CNG (compressed natural gas) sells for about \$2.44 per gallon equivalent and gasoline is selling for about \$3.36 per gallon.

Demand for natural gas should be determined by markets, not Congress or consumer tax subsidies. We are not opposed to using natural gas in the transportation sector, but we are opposed to consumer tax subsidies that distort the marketplace at the expense of consumers.

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*The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading Manufacturing companies with \$700 billion in annual sales and with more than 650,000 employees nationwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through research, advocacy, and collaboration for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: plastics, cement, paper, food processing, brick, chemicals, fertilizer, insulation, steel, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, aluminum and brewing.*