



Industrial Energy Consumers of America

The Voice of the Industrial Energy Consumers

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May 22, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: IECA Supports S. 1215, the “Methane Hydrate Research and Development Amendments Act of 2015”

Dear Chairman Murkowski:

On behalf of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA), we support passage of S. 1215, the “Methane Hydrate Research and Development Amendments Act of 2015.” It is important to U.S. supply long-term that we develop methane hydrate resources as a commercially viable source of energy.

IECA companies are energy-intensive trade-exposed (EITE) industries, which means that relatively small changes to the price of energy can have significant negative impacts to our competitiveness. EITE industries consume 75 percent of the entire manufacturing sector’s use of natural gas (29% of U.S. demand), and 82 percent of all energy from the manufacturing sector.

The U.S. has 85 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of known methane hydrate reserves onshore Alaska, and 13,000 Tcf offshore in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. This is a significant potential supply of natural gas and we need to find ways to tap this vast energy resource.

We thank you for your leadership on this important legislation and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio
President

cc: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.0 trillion in annual sales, over 2,900 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.4 million employees worldwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through 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: chemical, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, building products, brewing, independent oil refining, and cement.