



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. 1226, the “American Helium Production Act of 2015”

Dear Chairman Murkowski:

On behalf of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA), we support passage of S. 1226, the “American Helium Production Act of 2015.”

We are supportive of establishing a leasing program for helium exploration, development, and production, and identifying areas that are open to helium production. Helium is a natural element that is generally extracted from natural gas and used in industrial processes.

As the Federal Helium Reserve enters its final years of operation, the U.S. risks having a substantial share of its current helium supply go offline, without any guarantee of replacement from new private development. We support a standardized leasing process for helium development on federal lands. Currently, ownership of helium on federal lands is reserved to the government and leaseholders must request the rights to develop helium on a case-by-case basis.

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.