



## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MANUFACTURERS SUPPORT REPS. BUTTERFIELD-LONG BILL TO PROVIDE FERC WITH RETROACTIVE REFUND AUTHORITY WHEN CONSUMERS HAVE BEEN OVERCHARGED BY INTERSTATE NATURAL GAS PIPELINES**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA), along with a coalition of organizations, sent a [letter](#) of support for the “Protecting Natural Gas Consumers from Overcharges Act of 2021,” [introduced](#) by Representatives Butterfield (D-NC-1) and Long (R-MO-7).

Paul N. Cicio, President of IECA, made the following statement today:

“It is important to understand that interstate natural gas pipelines are monopolies and do not have any competition and are guaranteed a high fixed rate of return (12-13%), which means their profitability is guaranteed. Therefore, when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) determines that interstate pipelines have overcharged customers, it is common sense that they should be refunded such overcharges from the date they intervened at the FERC.”

In February 2020, the House Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing on the issue of Section 5 reform. This bill would reform the Natural Gas Act (NGA) to allow the FERC to order refunds in section 5 rate cases. This ensures that the NGA functions as it is intended – to allow FERC appropriate authority to remedy overcharges with refund authority that is identical to the refund authority provided to the FERC under the Federal Power Act (FPA). Not only will this ensure consumers have proper recourse to recoup overcharged funds, but it also brings the NGA in line with the FPA and fairness to all energy consumers.

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*The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.1 trillion in annual sales, over 4,200 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.8 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: chemicals, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, building products, automotive, brewing, independent oil refining, and cement.*