News Release

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Headline: “IECA Applauds Bi-Partisan Domenici-Bingaman Lease 181 Legislation—Recognizes Short–Term Urgency to Address the Natural Gas Crisis”

(Washington D.C.) – “The Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA) is very pleased to see a bi-partisan sense of urgency to find near-term solutions to the natural gas crisis thru the introduction of legislation that will provide access to Lease 181 in the Gulf of Mexico,” said Paul N. Cicio, President of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America. “Lease 181 natural gas is our greatest near-term supply option because it is very close to existing Gulf of Mexico exploration and production infrastructure.”

This legislation is an important first step to improving reliability of supply, reducing the price of natural gas and increasing our nation’s energy security. “Congressional action of this nature is timely” said Paul Cicio. “There is growing political instability in many energy producing countries through out the world with whom our country depends. We cannot and should not place the fate of the US economy in the hands of these unstable countries.”

“We are a country that is blessed with an abundant supply of deep-water natural gas in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic that belongs to the American public…but has been off-limits to production. This energy source, plus a balanced supply mix of energy from coal, oil, nuclear, and renewable energy is our best hope for energy security.”

IECA is a 501 (C) (6) nonprofit organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies 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, chemicals, fertilizer, insulation, steel, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, and brewing.