



**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
Office of the Chairman

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July 26, 2021

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2080 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

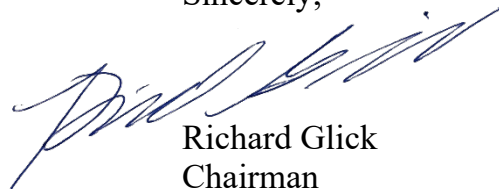
Dear Congressman Butterfield,

Thank you for your July 13, 2021 letter noting the introduction of your bill – H.R. 3979, the “Protecting Natural Gas Consumers from Overcharges Act”—which amends section 5 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) to give the Commission refund authority for gas rate proceedings.

As you note, under current law, the Commission’s ability to protect natural gas customers against unjust and unreasonable rates is compromised by its inability to set a refund date. In fact, I believe that current law provides a perverse incentive for protracted litigation and creates an asymmetry of leverage between pipelines seeking a rate increase under Section 4 of the NGA and complainants or the Commission under Section 5.

I support your efforts to amend the NGA to provide the Commission with refund authority similar to that provided under section 206 of the Federal Power Act. Thank you for your inquiry and for your ongoing interest in this matter which is vital to ensuring equitable treatment for consumers impacted by the Commission’s decision-making processes. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Richard Glick  
Chairman