

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 13, 2021

The Honorable Richard Glick
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Glick:

We write today regarding H.R. 3979, our recently introduced bipartisan bill to amend Section 5 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA). If passed, the bill would allow the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to ensure that natural gas consumers are appropriately refunded for any overcharged rates, which helps keep prices low.

As you know, under Section 206 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), FERC may, on its own initiative or upon receiving a complaint, examine whether the rates charged by an electric transmission entity are just and reasonable. If FERC finds that an electric transmission entity has charged an “unjust and unreasonable” rate, the FPA authorizes FERC to order that the entity refund over-collections from the time of the complaint.

Unfortunately, the NGA currently offers no such protection for their natural gas counterparts. Under Section 5 of the NGA, natural gas consumers can file a complaint against an interstate pipeline they believe has overcharged them, but FERC does not have authority to order a refund if it finds in their favor. This has resulted in billions of dollars in overcharges that lead to higher rates for all natural gas consumers.

Our bill would create parity between the statutes by giving FERC the authority to order pipelines to pay back overcharges from the date that a Section 5 complaint was filed. Passage of H.R. 3979 will provide natural gas consumers with the same protection from unfair transmission rates that electric transmission customers already receive under the FPA.

The bill has the support of the American Public Gas Association, the American Forest and Paper Association, the American Public Power Association, Duke Energy Corporation, the Council of Industrial Boiler Owners, the Glass Packaging Institute, the Industrial Energy Consumers of America, the Industrial Minerals Association – North America, the Natural Gas Supply Association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and the Process Gas Consumers Group.

Because of the significant benefit this provides to U.S. energy consumers, we would appreciate your support and the support of your fellow Commissioners of this legislation.

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We appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Billy Long
Member of Congress

cc: Neil Chatterjee, FERC Commissioner
James Danly, FERC Commissioner
Allison Clements, FERC Commissioner
Mark Christie, FERC Commissioner