

**House Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands
Legislative Hearing
15 September 2011**

**Statement for the Record
Congressman Michael G. Grimm (NY13)
U.S. House of Representatives**

Thank you Chairman Bishop, Ranking Member Grijalva and Members of the Subcommittee for holding today's hearing on H.R. 2606, the "New York City Natural Gas Supply Enhancement Act."

Congressman Meeks and I appreciate your interest in our legislation authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to allow the construction and operation of natural gas pipeline facilities in the Gateway National Recreation Area.

As noted in the attached August 22 letter from Robert Yaro, the President of the Regional Plan Association of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, to Congressman Meeks and I in support of H.R. 2606, if enacted our bill "will expand the supply of natural gas in New York City" and therefore help "support future economic development" consistent with New York City's PlaNYC.

The PlaNYC report is part of Mayor Bloomberg's effort to address the City's aging infrastructure, anticipate one million additional City residents expected over the next two decades, and strengthen the City's economy.

The report notes that one of the City's most important needs is to "increase natural gas transmission and distribution capacity" and further adds that the natural gas pipeline facilities addressed in our bill "would critically reinforce gas supplies in Brooklyn and Queens."

The Williams Companies, a major natural gas supplier, is proposing to build a lateral pipeline off of an existing Transco pipeline that will bring much-needed natural gas directly into New York City. The new lateral will pass underneath Gateway's beachfront Jacob Riis Park in Queens and underneath Jamaica Bay to a meter and regulator station located at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, which will then interconnect with National Grid's existing distribution system. A portion of the project will bring additional natural gas into the Rockaway section of Queens, which currently suffers from a lack of adequate capacity to effectively serve the growing demand in this area of the city.

As the Subcommittee is aware, the Park Service generally lacks the legal authority to permit natural gas facilities inside park boundaries, and Congress has historically given the NPS this authority on a case-by-case basis subject to restrictions and conditions depending on the nature of the project. Our bill is consistent with this longstanding practice.

To this end, I respectfully request that the Subcommittee approve our bill. Thank you again for your consideration and I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.