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U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Natural Resources

Washington, DC 20515

Opening Statement of

Chairman Doug Lamborn

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources

on Friday, June 20, 2014

1334 Longworth House Office Building Legislative hearing on

H.R. 4293, the "Natural Gas Gathering Enhancement Act" & H.R. 1587, the "Energy Infrastructure Improvement Act"

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"I'd like to thank our witnesses for being with us today. Today the Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources is meeting for a legislative hearing on two bills – H.R. 4293, the 'Natural Gas Gathering Enhancement Act' and H.R. 1587, the "Energy Infrastructure Improvement Act." These bills aim to expedite the permitting process for pipelines, gathering lines, and field compression units. Clarifying this process will allow for increased amounts of natural gas to be produced in areas where huge quantities of this resource are flared due to lack of infrastructure to transport the natural gas.

It is no secret the energy boom has brought tremendous economic benefits to the United States. Unfortunately, massive quantities of natural gas are flared every year due to a serious lack of infrastructure to transport it. For example, in North Dakota, companies are forced to flare approximately one-third of the natural gas produced each day – this equates to approximately \$1.4 million dollars in natural resources being wasted daily. Flaring this resource takes it off the market, therefore depriving federal, state and local governments of revenue, inhibiting job creation, and reducing energy security. H.R. 4293, the 'Natural Gas Gathering Enhancement Act' was introduced by Congressman Cramer and seeks to streamline the permitting process for natural gas gathering lines and the associated field compression unit. It allows the Secretary of the Interior to utilize categorical exclusions to issue sundry notices or right-of-ways to ensure this infrastructure can be permitted in a timely fashion and the project can move forward. New infrastructure will supply the transportation capacity that is needed to reduce the need for flaring and allow for increased production of natural gas.

H.R. 1587, the 'Energy Infrastructure Improvement Act,' sponsored by Congressman Marino, will update the U.S. Code to reflect modern energy developments. Statutes enacted in the early 20th century authorize the Secretary of the Interior to approve rights-of-ways on lands managed by the National Park Service for electrical and telephone lines, water pipes and pipelines, and canals and ditches – however it excludes natural gas pipelines. As a result, each time a company seeks to expand, modify or construct a natural gas pipeline across national park land, Congress has to pass a separate piece of legislation for the particular project. In some cases this has added years onto the project. This legislation

would give the Department of the Interior explicit authority to permit natural gas pipelines over all federal lands.

The bills we are discussing today will clarify and streamline the natural gas infrastructure permitting process. They will reduce the need for flaring and allow more natural gas to be brought to market. As a result of increased energy production, more jobs will be created, revenue will increase, and the United States can further distinguish itself as a global leader in energy production.

Again I'd like to thank the witnesses for coming before our committee today and I look forward to hearing your testimony."

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