

## **Air Liquide Statement**

03/19/2013

As one of the largest distributors of refined helium in the United States, American Air Liquide supports the bipartisan efforts of the House Natural Resources Committee to pass legislation that extends operation of the Federal Helium Reserve and secures a reliable supply of helium for end-users. Air Liquide appreciates the work of the Committee to reform the current helium allocation system to incentivize competitive behavior in the helium market by increasing transparency and opening up access to federal helium for more participants not on the federal helium pipeline. We continue to believe that increasing access to federal helium for more parties through tolling agreements leads to more market options for end-users and provides U.S. taxpayers with the best return on a taxpayer-owned resource. H.R. 527 is an important step in this process and, to ensure its goals are achieved along with stability in the supply chain, we will continue to work with Members of Congress on provisions that will guarantee greater access and ensure the intent underlying this bill is realized.