



PRESS RELEASE

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INADEQUATE PIPELINE CAPACITY FORCED MANUFACTURING TO USE LESS NATURAL GAS – PREVENTED BROWNOUTS AND BLACKOUTS THIS WINTER

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA) sent [comments for the record](#) to the House Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs for the hearing “Leading the Charge: Opportunities to Strengthen America’s Energy Reliability.”

Paul N. Cicio, President of IECA, made the following statement:

Had it not been for the costly sacrifice made by the manufacturing sector due to forced reduction in the use of natural gas this winter, the U.S. would have experienced brownouts or blackouts. The natural gas that we would have used kept the lights on and people’s homes warm. This sacrifice came at great costs.

This winter, across the country, because of inadequate natural gas pipeline capacity, manufacturing companies were forced to use less natural gas or were completely curtailed.¹ When there is inadequate pipeline capacity or power supply, manufacturing companies are always the first to be curtailed at significant costs of millions of dollars per day. Cutting or shutting down production plays havoc on U.S. supply chains, including the production of national defense goods.

Each year, the crisis for U.S. manufacturing has become more severe. This winter, because of inadequate pipeline capacity, manufacturers have paid as much as \$120 MMBtu for spot natural gas. That is much higher than what the EU or Asia paid for imported LNG. Higher prices due to constrained pipeline capacity also significantly increased electricity prices. Because we are price sensitive and compete globally, competitiveness is impacted.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.3 trillion in annual sales, over 12,000 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.9 million employees. One hundred percent of IECA members are manufacturing companies whose competitiveness is largely determined by the cost and reliability of natural gas and electricity. IECA’s sole mission is to reduce and avoid energy costs and increase energy reliability through advocacy in

¹ 44 Natural Gas Pipelines Require Manufacturers To Reduce/Curtail Use of Natural Gas Due to Inadequate Pipeline Capacity, https://www.ieca-us.org/wp-content/uploads/02.06.25_Pipeline-Capacity-Shortage_ENR.pdf

Congress and regulatory agencies, such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including chemicals, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, consumer goods, building products, automotive, independent oil refining, and cement.