

May 27, 2014

Written testimony submitted by Paul Hartman, Regional Director, State Affairs

Chairman Nesbitt and other esteemed members of the Michigan House Energy and Technology Committee:

America's Natural Gas Alliance (ANGA) is an advocacy and educational organization comprised of America's leading independent natural gas production and exploration companies. The collective natural gas output of ANGA's members is approximately 8.0 trillion cubic feet per year, which represents 33 percent of the total annual U.S. natural gas production.

ANGA welcomes the opportunity to weigh in support of House Bill 5555. ANGA works with industry, government, and other stakeholders to promote increased demand for our nation's abundant natural gas resource for a cleaner and more secure energy future and to ensure its continued availability.

ANGA commends the work of the House Energy and Technology Committee and the leadership of Chairman Nesbitt. Examining and studying the issues related to increasing access to natural gas for the families, businesses, and agricultural communities within Michigan is an important task. ANGA supports providing underserved and unserved customers in Michigan access to natural gas which will allow them to enjoy the benefits of today's lower natural gas pricing and our nation's abundance of this fuel.

Michigan is blessed with the most natural gas storage of any state in the country - over 645 BCF. In addition, it serves as a key interchange for major pipeline transmission lines which afford it constant access to natural gas. And, Michigan itself sits atop several natural gas shale plays - the Antrim and Utica. All of this, coupled with the United States Department of Energy forecasts from the Energy Information Administration which predict stable natural gas pricing into the next several decades, make Michigan a prime candidate to consider state and regulatory policies that will break down barriers to accessing this affordable, clean resource.

States across the country are taking similar actions to House Bill 5555. Although ANGA does not endorse one legislative mechanism over another, ANGA supports Michigan's efforts with House Bill 5555 as a positive step to increase access to natural gas ---the outcome of which is to provide significant environmental, economic and energy security benefits of clean, abundant, reliable North American natural gas that will help economic development and boost access to affordable energy in Michigan.

Please feel free to contact us if we may be a resource as you continue your work on behalf of the citizens of Michigan.