



American
Petroleum
Institute



June 13, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States Senate
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Leaders McConnell and Jeffries,

The Natural Gas Council, on behalf of the individuals and companies who produce, transport, and deliver natural gas across the nation, urges Congress to enact H.R. 4470, the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attack of 2023. Importantly, this proposal would reauthorize for two years the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program, which plays a crucial role in ensuring the security of the United States' critical infrastructure.

The CFATS program's mission is to reduce the risk of potential threats, including physical attack, theft, diversion and cyberattacks. Over the past two decades, the Department's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has worked with companies of all sizes to develop a consistent uniform set of standards within the program that are now recognized globally for chemical security.

Under CFATS, which provides a robust yet flexible approach to account for unique security risks, natural gas facilities must develop and submit comprehensive risk assessments as part of our security plans to submit to DHS for approval. These assessments help identify potential vulnerabilities to attacks and develop strategies to mitigate these risks. Moreover, the program has an exemplary 15-year regulatory history, which is widely supported by industry, because it facilitates communication with first responders, the public, and site personnel, resulting in stronger security across the communities in which our facilities operate.

As an integral part of U.S. energy networks, our companies recognize their responsibilities to continue operating during incidents, and work tirelessly to protect their employees, customers, neighbors, and the environment against the possible risk of terrorist attacks on their facilities. To ensure that their facilities remain properly protected against domestic or foreign aggressors, the natural gas sector appropriately assumes a risk-based approach to facility protection and dedicates resources commensurate with that risk.

Last July, the House of Representatives resoundingly approved H.R. 4470 by a vote of 409 – 1 shortly before expiration of the CFATS program. Now is exactly the right time to attach this proposal to an appropriations or supplemental spending measure to expeditiously reauthorize this key program.

The Natural Gas Council and the companies we represent urge Congress to enact H.R. 4470 to help safeguard our critical energy infrastructure and allow continued delivery of natural gas to the American people.

Sincerely,



Jeff Eshelman
President & CEO
Independent Petroleum Association of America



Dustin Meyer
Senior Vice President
American Petroleum Institute



Amy Andryszak
President & CEO
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America



Karen Harbert
President & CEO
American Gas Association



Dena Wiggins
President & CEO
Natural Gas Supply Association