

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6720

To establish the Commission on Comprehensive Strategies for the Placement of Natural Gas Infrastructure, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. HARE, Mr. HILL, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. INSLEE, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish the Commission on Comprehensive Strategies for the Placement of Natural Gas Infrastructure, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Natural Gas Strategy
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE AND GOALS.**

7 It is the purpose of this Act to facilitate the achieve-
8 ment of the following Congressional goals:

1 (1) Conducting a study relating to natural gas
2 infrastructure, including natural gas pipelines and
3 natural gas storage infrastructure, and liquefied nat-
4 ural gas infrastructure in the United States, which
5 shall include an examination of roles, authorities,
6 and methods of assessing risks and benefits em-
7 ployed by United States Government agencies that
8 regulate natural gas infrastructure sitings, taking
9 into account considerations that are beyond the reg-
10 ulatory scope of the current siting agencies and an
11 examination of the extent that reviews of proposed
12 natural gas infrastructure projects by United States
13 Government agencies are conducted in a complemen-
14 tary and effectively coordinated manner.

15 (2) Identifying factors that are in the public in-
16 terest that natural gas infrastructure developers may
17 not take into account in proposing specific projects,
18 and that may not be adequately assessed by United
19 States Government agencies reviewing natural gas
20 infrastructure development proposals due to a lack
21 of technical expertise or oversight authority, includ-
22 ing—

23 (A) regional environmental impacts;

1 (B) relationship of proposed natural gas
2 infrastructure developments to United States
3 policies to address climate change;

4 (C) relationship of proposed natural gas
5 infrastructure developments with other national
6 infrastructure development priorities, especially
7 in the electric power sector; and

8 (D) relationship of proposed natural gas
9 infrastructure developments with national safe-
10 ty and security priorities.

11 (3) Examining—

12 (A) Federal, State, and local expenditures
13 for water-side and land-based security for nat-
14 ural gas infrastructure protection, including the
15 extent of such expenditures relative to the pro-
16 tection of other critical infrastructure (such as
17 chemical facilities and chemical tankers); and

18 (B) the ability of existing and traditional
19 security missions of agencies involved, including
20 the United States Coast Guard and State and
21 local law enforcement agencies, to ensure ade-
22 quate security and safety of liquefied natural
23 gas operations.

24 (4) Understanding—

1 (A) the linkages among natural gas sup-
2 plies, carbon dioxide emissions, electricity sup-
3 ply, and electricity reliability, including the ex-
4 tent that United States carbon dioxide policies
5 will influence the existing and anticipated de-
6 mand for natural gas; and

7 (B) the national and regional requirements
8 for natural gas supply infrastructure in light of
9 other Federal policies related to carbon dioxide
10 control, electricity reliability, and development
11 of domestic natural gas resources.

12 (5) Identifying criteria for the selection of ap-
13 propriate natural gas infrastructure facility locations
14 that will meet national energy policy goals, ensure
15 adequate natural gas supplies, can be adequately se-
16 cured given existing constraints on water-side and
17 land-based security measures, and are environ-
18 mentally sound.

19 **SEC. 3. COMMISSION.**

20 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Com-
21 mission on Comprehensive Strategies for the Placement
22 of Natural Gas Infrastructure (in this Act referred to as
23 the “Commission”).

1 (b) PURPOSE.—The Commission shall conduct a
2 comprehensive review of United States natural gas policy
3 for the following purposes:

4 (1) REVIEW.—Reviewing relevant analyses of
5 the current and long-term natural gas policy and
6 conditions in the United States.

7 (2) IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS.—Identifying
8 problems that may threaten the security of natural
9 gas infrastructure, assessing regional versus national
10 economic impacts of natural gas infrastructure
11 placement, and ensuring the protection of the envi-
12 ronment.

13 (3) ANALYZING POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS.—Ana-
14 lyzing potential solutions to problems that threaten
15 the security of natural gas infrastructure, regional
16 economic security, and protection of the environ-
17 ment.

18 (4) PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS.—Providing
19 recommendations that will ensure that the United
20 States natural gas policy goals, including the goals
21 described in section 2, are met.

22 (c) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
24 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commis-
25 sion shall transmit to Congress a report on the

1 progress of United States natural gas policy toward
2 meeting its long-term goals of natural gas infra-
3 structure, including a detailed statement of the find-
4 ings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Com-
5 mission.

6 (2) LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—If a rec-
7 ommendation submitted under paragraph (1) in-
8 volves legislative action, the report shall include pro-
9 posed legislative language to carry out such action.

10 (d) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be com-
11 posed of 20 members of whom—

12 (1) 2 shall be appointed by the Secretary of
13 Transportation, 1 of whom shall be a representative
14 of the Maritime Administration;

15 (2) 2 shall be appointed by the Secretary of
16 Homeland Security, 1 of whom shall be a represent-
17 ative of the United States Coast Guard;

18 (3) 2 shall be appointed by the Secretary of En-
19 ergy, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the
20 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;

21 (4) 2 shall be appointed by the Secretary of
22 Commerce, 1 of whom shall be a representative of
23 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
24 tion;

1 (5) 6 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
2 House of Representatives—

3 (A) 3 of whom shall be appointed in con-
4 sultation with the majority leader; and

5 (B) 3 of whom shall be appointed in con-
6 sultation with the minority leader; and

7 (6) 6 members shall be appointed by the Presi-
8 dent Pro Tempore of the Senate—

9 (A) 3 of whom shall be appointed in con-
10 sultation with the majority leader of the Senate;
11 and

12 (B) 3 of whom shall be appointed in con-
13 sultation with the minority leader of the Senate.

14 (e) CHAIRPERSON.—The members of the Commission
15 shall designate a Chairperson from among its members.

16 (f) DATE.—Members of the Commission shall be ap-
17 pointed by not later than 30 days after the date of enact-
18 ment of this Act.

19 (g) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members shall be
20 appointed for the life of the Commission. Any vacancy in
21 the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be
22 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

23 (h) STAFF.—

24 (1) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have a
25 staff headed by an Executive Director.

1 (2) STAFF APPOINTMENT.—The Executive Di-
2 rector may appoint such personnel as the Executive
3 Director and the Commission determine to be appro-
4 priate.

5 (3) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the
6 approval of the Commission, the Executive Director
7 may procure temporary and intermittent services
8 under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

9 (4) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

10 (A) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOY-
11 EES.—Upon the request of the Commission, the
12 head of any Federal agency may detail, without
13 reimbursement, any of the personnel of such
14 agency to the Commission to assist in carrying
15 out the duties of the Commission. Any such de-
16 tail shall not interrupt or otherwise affect the
17 civil service status or privileges of the Federal
18 employee.

19 (B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon the
20 request of the Commission, the head of a Fed-
21 eral agency shall provide such technical assist-
22 ance to the Commission as the Commission de-
23 termines to be necessary to carry out its duties.

24 (5) RESOURCES.—The Commission shall have
25 reasonable access to materials, resources, statistical

1 data, and other information the Commission deter-
2 mines to be necessary to carry out its duties from
3 all relevant Federal agencies. The Chairperson shall
4 make requests for such access in writing when nec-
5 essary.

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