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May 5, 2020

Mr. Alex Oehler
Interim President
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
20 F Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Mr. Oehler,

On December 30, 2019, I sent a letter to many of your members indicating that I am concerned about rural communities like Pembroke Township, Illinois lacking access to natural gas and am working to identify a solution to that problem. Unfortunately, I have not heard back from your organization. Statistics from the Energy Information Administration illustrate that underserved communities pay more in energy costs as a result of the lack of access to affordable energy products. And as you know, efforts are underway by the environmental community along with many federal, state, and local policymakers to eradicate fossil fuels which would further hurt communities without access. Several cities in this country have passed local natural gas bans that are having negative implications on businesses and communities. Some state and federal policymakers are interested in passing policies to minimize or eliminate efforts to expand pipeline construction and eventually get rid of fossil fuels, including natural gas. While we embrace the need to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and incorporate renewable energy into communities, we recognize that natural gas is clean and affordable and that access and affordability to all of these products will remain critically important issues for all communities. I look forward to discussing ways in which to amplify the importance of access of natural gas to communities across the country.

As an aside, part of my mission has been to ensure that industries have executives, board members and third-party suppliers and firms that represent the rich diversity of America. We have seen great success in the tech and financial services industries and would like to work with your sector to make improvements. The governmental agencies and legislative bodies that your industry works with are more diverse and have begun to introduce legislation requiring more diversity. For example, Congress is more diverse - There are 127 women, 55 African Americans, 38 Latinos, and 20 Asian Pacific American Members in Congress. In addition, five African American members serve as chairs on full House committees, and 28 CBC members serve as chairs on House subcommittees.

I urge your association and member companies to double your efforts to include more women, African Americans, Latinos and Asian Pacific executives amongst your ranks and illustrate it by increasing diversity at the C-Suite level, in board meetings, in leadership roles, with legal representation and consultant representation on Capitol Hill.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Jesse L. Jackson Sr.

Rev Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.