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To: Lt. Governor's OfficeLtGov@scstatehouse.gov  
Date: 12/21/2017 10:48:52 AM  
Subject: U.S. Natural Gas and Oil Delivered for Consumers Again in 2017

December 21, 2017

## U.S. Natural Gas and Oil Delivered for Consumers Again in 2017

Dear Kevin,

When it comes to energy, 2017 was another successful year – with U.S. consumers continuing to see **economic** and **environmental benefits** from domestic natural gas and oil abundance. Here's what media reports, energy experts and government agencies had to say about how the U.S. energy renaissance strengthens energy security, creates manufacturing jobs, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and provides resilience during hurricane season.

**Boosting U.S. Energy Security, Lowering Consumer Costs:** The United States remained the world's leading producer and refiner of natural gas and oil for 2017, reducing dependence on overseas energy, **driving job growth** and helping to reduce consumer costs. A Forbes piece describing production in just one U.S. region puts the magnitude of the American energy revolution in perspective:

"[The] Appalachian produced more gas than even entire continents like Africa and South America. The region also produced more natural gas than any OPEC country... This 200% increase in Appalachian natural gas production since 2012 has had significant implications in the U.S. market. It has driven down costs for consumers (and) is fueling a

## Pro-Growth Tax Reform is a Win for Economy, Energy Security

Congress is ending 2017 on a high note, passing pro-growth, pro-development tax reforms. **Learn how policies like smart cost-recovery provisions can allow the oil and natural gas industry to continue investing billions of dollars in the U.S. economy and add to the 10 million U.S. jobs we support.**

emissions thanks largely to greater use of [clean natural gas](#) in power generation. And [cleaner transportation fuels](#) produced by our refineries have helped lower air emissions even as the miles we drive have grown. More proof that we can [improve the environment](#) while increasing production and growing the economy:

“U.S. carbon emissions for the first six months of 2016 declined to their lowest point since 1991, when there were 70 million fewer Americans. When all greenhouse gas emissions are included, we’re still at the lowest point since 1993. Even more importantly, the economy was growing during most of that decline. A growing economy is usually associated with more CO2 emissions, not less... The U.S. has made more progress in cutting its carbon footprint than nearly all of the countries that publicly criticize us. And we’ve done it by embracing innovation and the free market — and fossil fuels.” ([Not All Fossil Fuels Are The Same](#))

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**Ensuring Reliability during Hurricane Season:** One of the greatest challenges the nation faced this year was the destruction caused by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. As the recovery continues – supported by many generous Americans – we’re proud to say the U.S. natural gas and oil industry [responded quickly and effectively](#) even as Hurricane Harvey delivered a direct hit to a substantial portion of the nation’s energy infrastructure and refining capacity. A recent analysis demonstrates how geographically diverse production and careful preparation helped minimize fuel supply impacts:

“Current U.S. oil reserves are 60 percent larger than they were in 2008 and these energy resources are located in different parts of the country. .... As a result, the U.S. energy supply is less vulnerable to an isolated natural disaster, no matter how vicious. Energy companies have also improved their disaster preparedness. Before Harvey hit, firms began shuttering refineries and evacuating personnel. Many of the refinery closures were due to proactive safety measures, not facility damage. By shutting down facilities safely and preventing long-term damage, firms put themselves in position to quickly ramp up production and refining capacity.” ([Energy Companies Have Helped Texas, and the Nation, Recover from Harvey](#))

Natural gas and oil are [integral to daily life](#) – not only fueling transportation and powering homes and businesses but supplying the chemical building blocks for countless everyday products, from life-saving medical devices and cellphones to toys and cosmetics. That means the strength of U.S. energy production benefits the entire economy. By safely and responsibly supplying the energy that fuels America, the U.S. natural gas and oil industry aims to make 2018 just as successful as 2017.

Sincerely,

**Jack Gerard**  
President and CEO  
API

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