The Natural Gas Council (NGC) recently joined the chorus of voices imploring the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to allow for the expansion of the nation’s pipeline system. NGC supports the notion of allowing states to self-regulate to accommodate the increased need for natural gas infrastructure, which is a key component of the nation’s energy strategy. NGC believes that allowing states to self-regulate can help alleviate the burden on the federal government while still allowing for necessary infrastructure development.

NGC notes that natural gas infrastructure has been underdeveloped for many years, and that the current pipeline system is not adequate to meet the demand for natural gas across the country. The organization highlights the need for new pipeline projects to transport natural gas from existing sources to areas with high demand, such as California and New England.

NGC further emphasizes the importance of infrastructure development in areas with high natural gas demand, such as California and New England. NGC notes that the current pipeline system is not adequate to meet the demand for natural gas in these areas, and believes that new pipeline projects are needed to transport natural gas from existing sources to areas with high demand.

NGC also highlights the importance of ensuring that new pipeline projects are constructed in a safe and efficient manner. The organization notes that the current pipeline system is underdeveloped, and that new pipeline projects are needed to transport natural gas from existing sources to areas with high demand.

NGC believes that allowing states to self-regulate can help alleviate the burden on the federal government while still allowing for necessary infrastructure development. However, NGC also notes that states must be held accountable for ensuring that new pipeline projects are constructed in a safe and efficient manner.

NGC concludes by urging FERC to consider the need for new pipeline projects to transport natural gas from existing sources to areas with high demand, and to allow states to self-regulate in order to facilitate the necessary infrastructure development.
manner. This durability is attributable to the enduring goals the Commission sought to achieve in the Certificate Policy Statement, which included fostering competitive markets, protecting captive customers, and avoiding unnecessary environmental and community impacts while serving increased natural gas demand. As administered by the Commission, the Certificate Policy Statement has achieved its stated goals.

In the broader context, the Commission’s policies implementing section 7 of the Natural Gas Act have furthered Congress’ intent in decontrolling natural gas at the wellhead by creating the infrastructure needed to support competitive natural gas markets. Additions to our nation’s interconnected natural gas pipeline network have increased access to competitive natural gas supplies and have resulted in more affordable energy and energy-based products for American consumers.

The fundamental architecture of the Certificate Policy Statement is consistent with the Natural Gas Act and remains sound. While modernizing and streamlining certain elements of the Commission’s review process may be appropriate, wholesale changes to the Certificate Policy Statement are unnecessary and likely would be counterproductive. We trust the Commission’s review will recognize and preserve the benefits that have resulted from the Certificate Policy Statement. Any contemplated changes to the Certificate Policy Statement should not lose sight of these benefits and the ongoing role of pipelines in realizing the potential created by our nation’s energy advantage.

Respectfully,

The Natural Gas Council

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Cc: The Honorable Neil Chatterjee
    The Honorable Richard Glick
    The Honorable Cheryl A. LaFleur
    The Honorable Robert F. Powelson