

To: All Staff and Onsite Contractors [REDACTED]@api.org]
From: Chris Carroll [REDACTED]@api.org]
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Subject: Executive Update | April 30, 2021

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Executive Update

Dear API Executive:

President Biden's first address to Congress happened Wednesday evening, nearly 100 days into the Administration's tenure, albeit in a COVID-altered Capitol setting with few lawmakers and press. With vaccinations and the economy still top of mind in DC, energy and climate change made cameos, but they were not the main event. By one accounting, President Biden said "jobs" more than 40 times and "energy" just twice. Still, API moved proactively, issuing a pre-emptive statement a few hours before the big speech.

With lawmakers, reporters and our social media audience, we stressed that it was an opportunity for the president to build support for a bipartisan legislative agenda that supports our nation's economic recovery and addresses the dual challenge of tackling climate change while providing access to affordable, reliable energy. Too often, the climate debate is focused more on partisan politics than on real solutions. A reasonable middle ground exists, and meaningful progress will require both sides working together to advance smart policies for a lower carbon future.

In carving out that middle ground, we continue to seize every chance we get to highlight API's Climate Action Framework as a path forward. The *Framework* demonstrates that we don't have to choose between environmental progress and energy security. Instead of harmful mandates, new taxes and misguided restrictions on our nation's vast energy resources, Congress and the administration should focus on accelerating innovation and reducing emissions through market-based solutions.

Stay tuned in the coming days for my new *Washington Post* opinion piece that makes these points and more. And scroll down to learn about another busy week at API, including several highlights in the Global Industry Services and standards space. Relatedly, I look forward to speaking to government regulators and communicating our industry's many gains on safety at the International Oil Spill Conference in mid-May.

All the best,



Mike Sommers
President and CEO

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Washington Update

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In Virtual Kickoff Call, API Holds First Hydrogen Task Force Meeting

API held its first Hydrogen Task Force meeting on Monday, April 26th to map out API's policy approach to advocate for the growth of the global hydrogen economy, and natural gas' foundational role within it. API's support for hydrogen is included in the recently released Climate Action Framework and, per the suggestion of member companies, an important policy space for API to be more outspoken. The purpose of the Hydrogen Task Force is to serve as a hub on cross cutting hydrogen policy issues to support the ongoing work of existing API Committees and Subcommittees. The Task Force is primarily anchored to the Climate Policy Subcommittee (under the Climate Committee) and the Gas and Power Markets Subcommittee (under the Natural Gas Markets Committee). In the kickoff call, members worked to identify emerging policy issues and draft high level advocacy points.

For more information, please contact [Marcus Koblitz](#) at [REDACTED] or [Jeff Stein](#) at [REDACTED]

API Hosts 2021 Hurricane Season Offshore Energy Preparedness and Response Virtual Workshop

This week API, in coordination with the Offshore Operators Committee, the International Association of Drilling Contractors and the Center for Offshore Safety, hosted the [2021 Hurricane Season Offshore Energy Preparedness and Response Virtual Workshop](#) to bring together industry and government to share information and lessons learned from the 2020 hurricane season in advance of the 2021 hurricane season. Over 100 attendees heard from experts from the National Hurricane Center, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Department of Energy, helicopter operators, port authorities, oil spill response organizations, and offshore oil and natural gas operators to share information and lessons learned, establish expectations, and develop contacts among government and industry in advance of the 2021 hurricane season.

For more information, please contact [Holly Hopkins](#) at [REDACTED]

API Global Gas and LNG Workgroup Policy Advisor Discusses the Critical Role of Natural Gas in South America's Energy Transition

On Thursday, as part of this year's South American Energy Series conference, Riley Smith, API Policy Advisor for Global Gas and LNG and part of the Natural Gas Markets team, participated in a panel titled "The Critical Role of Gas: Monetisation and Commercialisation." In his remarks, Mr. Smith discussed topics such as how U.S. and EU net-zero commitments and the creation of differentiated gas markets could affect gas demand in South America; how natural gas can increase energy access and promote economic development; and the role of natural gas in South America's energy transition, including the region's potential to be a producer of blue hydrogen. This year's conference is the second edition of the South America Energy Series, which is the leading energy transformation summit in Colombia and South America.

For more information, please contact [Riley Smith](#) at [REDACTED]

API Midstream Standards Manager Recognized with ANSI Service Award

This month, API Midstream Standards Manager Paula Watkins received the American National Standard Institute's (ANSI) Meritorious Service Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to the U.S. voluntary standardization system. Recipients of ANSI's leadership and service awards demonstrated significant achievements in national and international standardization activities, as well as an ongoing commitment to their industry, their nation and the enhancement of the global voluntary consensus standards system. The 2020-2021 distinguished recipients will be honored during World Standards Week in October. API congratulates Paula on her great work!

For more information, please contact [David Miller](#) at [REDACTED]

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Pipeline Report Highlights Progress in Safety Management Systems

Last week, the Pipeline Safety Management Systems (Pipeline SMS) Industry Team released their [2020 Annual Report](#), detailing the industry's progress implementing API Recommended Practice 1173 – *Pipeline Safety Management Systems*. John Hill, Vice President of Natural Gas System Safety with Black Hills Energy and Industry Team Chair, [said](#): “Far from letting the impact of COVID-19 deter us from our mission in 2020, the pipeline industry used the Pipeline SMS framework to support our response to the pandemic.” Balancing a global pandemic, social distancing measures and a remote work environment, the pipeline industry continued to advance SMS maturity and improve safety culture – and the Industry Team facilitates this ongoing journey among liquid and gas pipeline operators. Looking ahead, the Industry Team will engage with stakeholders to discuss industry-wide progress and our shared mission: “One Industry, One Goal, Zero Incidents.” To learn more, visit PipelineSMS.org.

For more information, please contact [David Murk](#) at [REDACTED]

API Receives ANSI Accreditation for Three Safety and Sustainability Programs

Last week, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited three API inspector certifications, validating our organization's ongoing commitment to world-class programs that support safe and sustainable energy development. Senior Vice President for Global Industry Services (GIS) Debra Phillips [said](#): “The recognition gives our programs further validity in both U.S. and international markets as we see participation numbers increase in nearly every region of the world.” The accreditation formally recognizes that the API inspector certification programs – API 510 for Pressure Vessels, API 570 for Piping and API 653 for Aboveground Storage Tanks – meet the rigorous requirements established by the International Organization for Standardization. API's Individual Certification Programs support the industry's skilled workforce, and the new accreditation demonstrates that these certifications meet the highest standard for openness and integrity.

For more information, please contact [Andri Orphanides](#) at [REDACTED]

PennEast Pipeline Case at Supreme Court

On Thursday, the U.S. Supreme Court held oral arguments in *PennEast Pipeline Co. v. New Jersey*, which concerns the future of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)-approved, 120-mile natural gas pipeline that would run from Pennsylvania to New Jersey. API and an industry coalition submitted multiple amicus briefs throughout the course of litigation, including a brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court. The State of New Jersey opposes the pipeline, claiming that PennEast was prohibited from commencing eminent domain

proceedings on certain state parcels of land and has sought to invoke sovereign immunity under the Eleventh Amendment. Justices had tough questions for both sides, weighing state sovereignty and property rights against the history and statutory authority under the Natural Gas Act (NGA). If the Supreme Court agrees with New Jersey that private companies are prohibited from commencing an eminent domain proceeding against a state following the issuance of a FERC certificate, it could potentially upend the NGA permitting scheme for interstate gas pipelines. Several of industry's points were referenced by multiple justices during oral argument. A decision from the Supreme Court is expected this summer.

For more information, please contact [Andrea Miles](#) at [REDACTED]

State Updates

As Most States Near Legislative Adjournments, States Continue Protecting Natural Gas Use

As we've reported over the last several weeks, a growing number of states are enacting legislation to counter local efforts to ban natural gas use. This week, as expected, West Virginia Governor Jim Justice signed natural gas preemption legislation. Additionally, the Florida Legislature passed preemptive measures that protect natural gas and transportation fuels. We're optimistic that Governor Ron DeSantis will sign both measures.

By mid-May, most states will have adjourned their 2021 regular legislative sessions. As a result of our ongoing coalition efforts, it is possible that nearly 20 states will have enacted similar measures protecting natural gas use and ensuring consumer choice.

For more information, please contact [Stephanie Wissman](#) at [REDACTED] and [Gifford Briggs](#) at [REDACTED]

Indiana Governor's Ethanol Bill Veto is Win for Industry

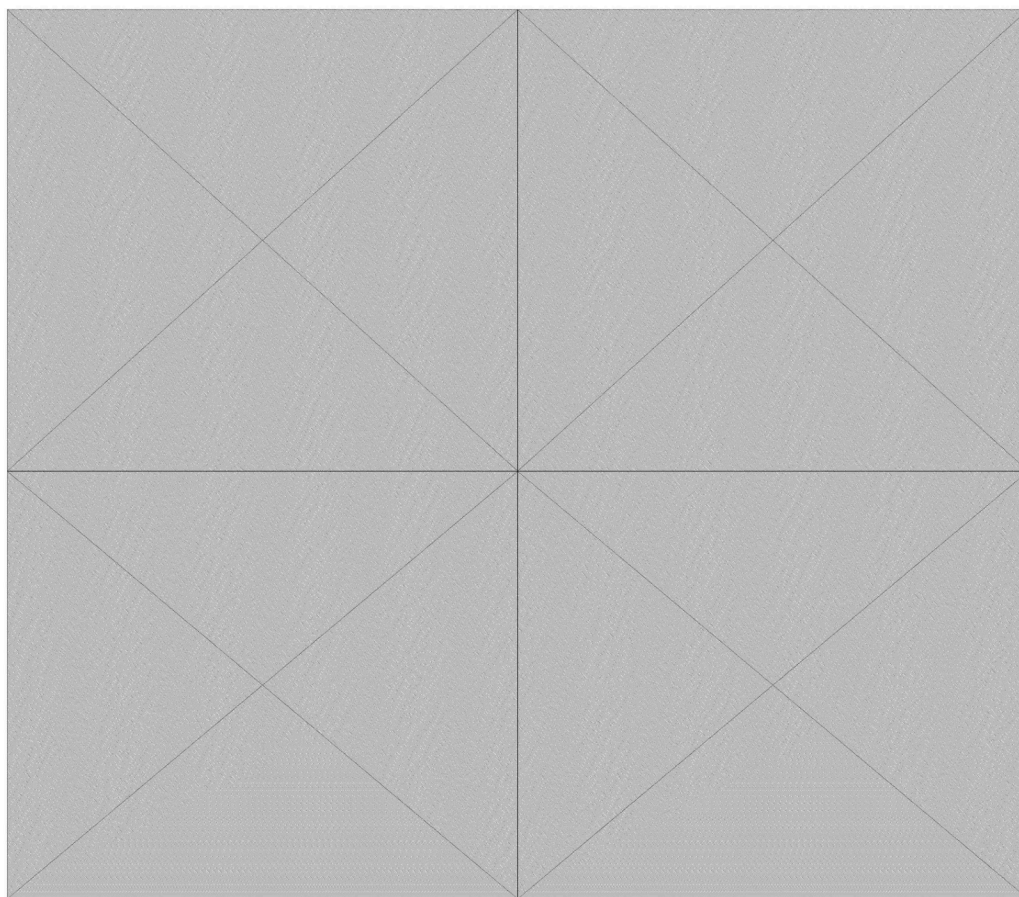
This week, citing state-level consumer protection labels on E15 fuel pumps as duplicative, unnecessary, and confusing, Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb vetoed legislation that primarily sought to extend E-15 sales year-round. His veto was at the behest of the ethanol industry, which launched a last-minute, raucous campaign blitz to prevent the consumer protection labeling and, ultimately, stop their own legislation.

Because the legislation had a strong likelihood of passage, due to policymakers' political interests in supporting their agricultural constituencies, we strategically supported the labeling provisions and worked with key legislators to include industry-supported provisions defining the underground storage system and aligning the codified volatility requirements with the gasoline specifications.

While this outcome is a win for consumers and our industry, Indiana is one of the few remaining states that has not extended E-15 sales year-round, and undoubtedly, like in years past, ethanol and corn interests will continue to pursue these efforts, as well as incentives and mandates, in the state and throughout the Midwest.

For more information, please contact [Elizabeth Van Holt](#) at [REDACTED]

Social Highlights



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