



# Safe and Reliable Natural Gas

**W**HEREAS, In 2016, natural gas became the most common source for electricity generation in the United States. There are 187 million Americans using natural gas in the U.S. and some 41 million good-paying jobs connected to the industry; and

**WHEREAS**, Emissions from natural gas distribution systems have dropped 69% since 1990; and

**WHEREAS**, UWUA gas workers play an important role in providing the safe, clean delivery of gas to our homes and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, The UWUA is an active participant in The Inter-Union Gas Conference, composed of gas locals throughout the United States and Canada. The UWUA, and six participating unions exchange new ideas and best practices on pipeline infrastructure, safety and benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, The UWUA has partnered with the American Gas Association (AGA) to monitor, assess, and react to partisan efforts aimed at decarbonizing the nation's gas system in ways that are economically, socially, and physically untenable; and

**WHEREAS**, Some state and local governments have proposed or passed legislation and building codes that would prohibit the installation of safe, clean natural gas in new housing and buildings. The UWUA, its affiliates, and community allies have educated, agitated, and fought against mass electrification as the sole means of decarbonizing energy systems in a manner that would negatively impact consumers, particularly among low-income and minority populations, as well as the workers who provide the public with reliable natural gas energy; and

**WHEREAS**, Renewable biogas, biomass, hydrogen blending, and geothermal heating and cooling should be included in sustainable decarbonization efforts within the natural gas industry when crafting any decarbonization solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, Through P4A training and apprenticeship programs, we are ensuring that our members work safer while maintaining, operating, and rebuilding our gas infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, As demand has grown, our nation is in ever greater need of additional gas pipelines. Insufficient pipelines in the six New England states, New York, and California have resulted in much higher energy costs, and concerns over electric reliability in periods of high demand. It is also a matter of energy independence from non-domestic sources that can be impacted by world events such as the war in Ukraine.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, The UWUA calls on UWUA affiliates to engage in state and local legislative and regulatory proceedings to improve gas safety, leak remediation, infrastructure maintenance, affordability, and reliability on behalf of workers and the public; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the UWUA and its affiliates will work with community allies to educate, agitate, and fight against state and local government actions that seek to limit consumer choice in the use of natural gas and mandate politically motivated, untenable decarbonization efforts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That UWUA's advocacy will call for any discussion of a ban on fossil fuels to be paused until a real and substantive discussion can be had on the economic, social and political disruption that would be caused by a wholesale move away from traditional energy sources that are a source of high-quality jobs and affordable energy.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That UWUA and its affiliates will advocate for the inclusion of all available technologies to be used in the decarbonization of America's energy systems, including emerging technologies that preserve existing energy sectors such as carbon capture, gas blending, and modular nuclear technology.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, Building up our pipeline infrastructure will create jobs, grow our economy, and improve America's energy security. The UWUA supports reform to speed up the permitting process for interstate pipelines and related infrastructure.