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March 20, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker McCarthy and Minority Leader Jeffries:

The Williams Companies (Williams) writes in support of H.R. 1, “The Lower Energy Costs Act.” Enacting durable, bipartisan permitting reform is a much-needed effort, and we commend your resolute leadership in strengthening the security, resiliency, and affordability of America’s preeminent energy infrastructure.

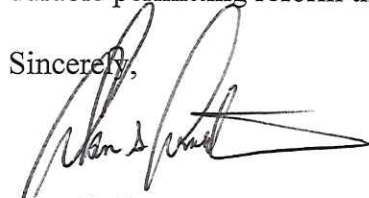
Every day Williams handles one third of the natural gas used across our country to heat our homes, cook our food, and power electric generation. We were the first North American midstream company to develop a climate commitment and are on track to reduce our emissions by 56% below 2005 levels by 2030. As one of the largest energy infrastructure companies in the United States, we see firsthand the critical role natural gas plays in a viable and sustainable low-carbon future. Natural gas-powered electricity generation enhances reliability of the U.S. electric power grid and allows for growth in renewable forms of energy. Our vast network of energy infrastructure stretches across 26 states. As we continue to build and modernize our infrastructure to meet customer demand across the country, it is clear that now more than ever, in all states, there is an urgent need for new energy infrastructure, including natural gas pipelines that are crucial to interstate commerce. New pipelines will unlock plentiful U.S. natural gas supplies and eliminate the bottlenecks that cause unnecessary price spikes to consumers like we saw in California and New England this past winter. This critical infrastructure will also help deliver domestic energy independence, national security benefits to our allies and lower global greenhouse gas emissions.

The “Lower Energy Costs Act” and the “Promoting Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act” as-passed by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, will help facilitate the construction and modernization of new pipeline and other energy infrastructure. Both pieces of legislation are focused on streamlining permitting and ensuring that any environmental issues are identified and resolved in an objective manner that protects our environment more effectively while enabling market-driven solutions without subsidies.

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Williams endorses the “Lower Energy Costs Act,” and we appreciate all your hard work in developing and advancing this critical legislation. We look forward to continuing to collaborate on solutions that make a difference and commend this meaningful step toward enacting bipartisan, durable permitting reform this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan S. Armstrong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alan S. Armstrong

cc: Amanda Mertens Campbell, Vice President Government Affairs and Outreach