

**Greg Ebel Letter to the Editor
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**Wirth Admonishment Hits Home,
Time to Rally and Regroup for Critical, Final Push**

Former Sen. Wirth is right about the natural gas industry not having done enough to ensure equitable treatment when recent federal energy legislation was being crafted (*Fed Energy Bill Lights Fire Under Natural Gas, July 9*). But let's move past what we **should** have done and focus on what we **can** and **must** do.

We can still make sure that natural gas is an integral part of the new energy landscape. And it should be. **It's clean.** Natural gas generates 45 percent less CO2 than coal and 30 percent less than fuel oil when combusted. **It's reliable.** Whether or not the sun's shining or the wind's blowing, plentiful supplies of natural gas are available for immediate use, via a delivery system that is interconnected, efficient and highly dependable. **It's versatile.** Natural gas accounts for roughly 25 percent of all U.S. energy use, and is counted on for generating electricity, powering our manufacturing plants, providing industrial feedstock, heating homes or fueling transportation. And, **it's domestically abundant.** Recent estimates show North America has more than 100 years of production capacity. Such prolific supplies make us less reliant on foreign supply sources, critical to our energy security. What's more, increased domestic supplies keep prices relatively stable.

Natural gas is the natural choice for backing up renewables and generating low-carbon power; it's the fuel of choice for switching from carbon-intensive coal or fuel oil to run as base-load power generation, significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and in many cases, it's ideal as a clean-burning transportation fuel alternative to foreign oil, diesel and gasoline.

Having just spent the last two days in Washington D.C. articulating this message, I'm confident the industry **will** make its voice heard in order to instigate critical policy revisions that favor natural gas as part of the energy and environmental security of Americans.

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Spectra Energy Corp (NYSE: SE) is a leading natural gas infrastructure company serving three key links in the natural gas value chain: gathering and processing, transmission and storage, and distribution. The company also has a 50-percent ownership in Denver-based DCP Midstream, one of the largest natural gas gatherers and processors in the United States.