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Comment: We should not choose radical environmentalists over the American people. Those most hurt by Obama agencies rules and regulations were the millions of Poor and Middle class Americans who need these jobs the most. National environmental groups, that only a few years prior to Obama EPA , praised natural gas as the bridge fuel to a clean environment, but last 8 years changed to oppose . Special interest groups have largely chosen their sides between the political parties and refuse to work within reasonable bounds. Instead, they seemed to happily, if not blindly, balance on the edge of a partisan cliff while U.S. competitiveness tumbles down it. The issue of

providing energy to the nation while maintaining a clean environment has become overly politicized where spin and rhetoric are preferred over facts and science. Congress should consider steering the U.S. out of the natural gas crisis and back toward a competitive and vibrant economy. It is critical that Congress act today to keep natural gas supply from snowballing into economy-wide destruction and promote America oil and gas and coal and farming. Power generators expanded their demand for natural gas by 36% over the period 1997-2000. The Energy Information Administration found that between 2000 and 2003, 93 percent (187 gigawatts) of new generation capacity was gas-fired. In a June 2005 report the State of California consumed approximately 6 to 10 billion feet of natural gas per day. If California were a country, it would have ranked as the tenth largest user of natural gas worldwide. Natural gas is regarded as the cleanest burning fossil fuel and therefore should be preferred over other sources, so why is it not championed by environmental groups? Instead, they had significant and detrimental impacts on the U.S. gas and oil economy as a whole, and consumers and workers specifically. In an industrialized and globally competitive world, energy use represents a very real and fixed cost of doing business and more fundamentally, of life. Consumers and businesses have moderated and may continue to moderate their energy use marginally, but in the end, they require energy for survival. More simply, energy is not a luxury; it is a necessity. The Congressional Joint Economic Committee found that, "environmental laws passed in the 1980s and 1990s, and their subsequent regulations, encouraged utilities to use clean burning natural gas. during this time 90 percent of new power plants were gas-fired in large part as a result of government environmental policies. Some states' percentage of natural gas-dependent electricity was closer to 100 percent, and many of those states were starving for more natural gas. For example all of California's power plants from 1998-2005 had been natural gas-fired facilities. The U.S. have abundant natural gas resources with trillions of cubic feet, and finding more by the month. America is not running out of natural gas, and it is not running out of places to look for natural gas. America is running out of places where companies were allowed to look for gas. California's Energy Commission in 2005 report concluded that natural gas has allowed power plant developers "to meet local air quality regulations that implement the federal Clean Air Act." then the Environmental activist turned against this clean energy, makes no since. Natural gas has been regarded as the ideal fossil fuel for multiple uses- from electricity generation to manufacturing, in part because of its efficiency, in part because of its relative cleanliness, and in part because of its relatively low delivered cost. For many years, natural gas was a wise and easy choice; America is blessed with an abundant supply and gas burns cleaner and is considered by some to be more environmentally preferable to other fuels. That abundant supply translated to low prices, and those low prices helped fuel a strong and vibrant economy. Most people probably do not realize the importance that natural gas plays in their daily lives. Natural gas is a principal feedstock to several industries including chemical and petrochemical manufacturing, the pulp and paper, steel, and fertilizer industries. The most dramatic finding was that U.S. federal laws and policies in

Obama administration with regulatory burden had contributed in large measure to the nation's natural gas crisis. Federal environmental policies have prevented a sufficient and corresponding increase in supply of natural gas. These conflicting federal policies have created an artificial barrier for the market. After quite literally placing middle income taxpayers on the brink of going out of business the government current is acknowledging the unfortunate fact -we are indeed experiencing an energy regulation crisis from the past administration. *⊙

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