

# **Natural Gas Subcommittee Talking Points**

*Energy & Technology Committee*

*May 31, 2011*

## **Mission of the Energy and Technology Subcommittee on Natural Gas**

The Energy and Technology Subcommittee on Natural Gas is dedicated to examine the safe exploration, transmission, storage, and use of natural gas. The focus will be on discovering safe methods to produce natural gas and explore the ways natural gas can help meet our state's energy needs while leading us towards an independent energy future.

*The primary goals of the Committee are:*

1. The responsible exploration, development, and harvest of natural gas;
2. Explore a regulatory environment that encourages the reliable and safe production, transmission, distribution, and use of natural gas;
3. Find responsible ways to expand the use of natural gas manufacturing, transportation, and generation as it fits in a portfolio of energy resources;
4. And stability of price by matching supply and demand to create a secure and stable environment for producers and users.

The committee will accomplish this by holding a series of hearings and potential field visits of production, storage, transmission, and energy generation sites. Potential topics could range from the future of natural gas and how the abundance of American natural gas fits into a wider energy portfolio, benefits to the American economy and manufacturing, environmental benefits, and the future of natural gas in Michigan.

## **Members**

Rep. Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton), Chairman

Rep. Ray Franz (R-Onekama)

Rep. Joe Haveman (R-Holland)

Rep. Dale Zorn (R-Ida)

Rep. Roy Schmidt (D-Grand Rapids)

Rep. Charles Brunner (D-Bay City)

Rep. Tim Melton (D-Pontiac)

## **Key Natural Gas Talking Points**

- Natural gas is a versatile fuel which heats our homes, cooks our meals, provides 24% of the nation's electricity, powers vehicles, fuels industrial facilities, and is a critical component in chemistry.
- Natural gas is an essential part of the manufacturing process as over 98% manufactured goods comes in contact with natural gas through the process, because of its essential role in chemistry and is also vital to the U.S. manufacturing industry because of its role as a power source.

- The United States is described as the “Saudi Arabia of natural gas,” as American has over 100 years of recoverable natural gas with current technology.
- Natural gas is a clean, abundant fuel with over 97 percent of domestic use is produced in North America.