

**Summary of Testimony of
Pat Wood, III
Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Before the
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
May 5, 2004**

It is impossible to envision a 30 Tcf annual domestic market without Alaska natural gas. There has recently been renewed interest in the development of the transportation infrastructure necessary to move that gas to markets in the Lower 48 States. However, there are currently no applications before the Commission regarding an Alaska natural gas transportation project.

The proposed Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act, which has been included in the last several versions of the National Energy Bill, would apply many of the streamlining aspects of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Act to a project filed under the Natural Gas Act. It usefully confirms that the Commission may consider an Alaska pipeline proposal under the NGA, and establishes the Commission as the lead agency for purposes of environment review. Consolidating federal reviews during the Commission's certificate review would help guarantee sensible, coordinated decisionmaking..

Our staff and I making every effort to prepare to work together with Canadian, Federal, and State agencies that may have regulatory responsibilities concerning a natural gas pipeline moving gas from Alaska and Canada to the lower 48 states. As soon as any application is filed with the Commission, we will eagerly take up the challenge of processing it efficiently and effectively.