**ISSUE**

Since 2015, NPGA's State Affairs program has monitored nearly 3,000 pieces of legislation with the potential to impact the industry, working in coordination with state and regional associations. We must ensure we are prepared to detect and analyze legislative proposals that could affect the propane industry, including decarbonization, subsidized expansion of utilities, and overregulation of the industry.

**ACTION**

In 2019, with the Congress in near-gridlock and some federal agencies overturning environmental protections from previous administrations, many state legislatures have taken action to set their own policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and slowing the impact of climate change. There has been a wave of proposals aimed to “decarbonize” the country, pushing consumers to abandon fuels including propane and natural gas, and move to all-electric homes, businesses, and vehicles.

**OUTLOOK**

The propane industry is refuting claims that it cannot be part of the clean energy conversation, deploying a national campaign in the upcoming year to promote its value. NPGA is developing a toolkit to help the industry communicate propane’s value that will be deployed in the next quarter. NPGA continues to provide assistance to state and regional associations through free access to the Engage online grassroots program to get members involved in key battles, as well as developing tools for states and marketers to use in combating legislative and regulatory challenges outside of decarbonization.

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**ISSUE**

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) 2020 Winter Policy Conference on February 24-26, 2020 in Arlington, VA gathers the nation’s Commissioners, Directors, and Secretaries of Agriculture to discuss important issues and potential solutions to address topics ranging from hemp farms to broadband installation. Among the topics for discussion are the late agricultural harvest and propane supply logistics in the Midwestern United States.

**ACTION**

NPGA is leading an educational session at the NASDA 2020 Winter Policy Conference on the production, distribution process, and logistical infrastructure for propane, specifically within the Midwest. NPGA is developing the session to share the dynamics of the propane delivery stream through pipeline, railway, and over-the-road traffic.

**OUTLOOK**

NPGA is participating in the NASDA 2020 Winter Policy Conference to continue communication among all stakeholders in response to the late crop harvest and demand for propane. Assessing the logistical constraints and options for improvement are ongoing, and engaging the agricultural community is critical.

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**ISSUE**

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees are beginning the annual process of collecting funding requests for the upcoming Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. Each year, there are three steps to the appropriations process: conducting outreach, making formal requests, and monitoring those requests. The first quarter of 2020 is the time to complete the first two steps of the process and ensure requests are correctly submitted. Appropriations funding will provide the propane industry with a long-term opportunity to develop new technologies for vehicles, renewable propane, and combined heat and power applications.

**ACTION**

NPGA will seek changes to existing FY 2020 Appropriations language that would request research, development, and demonstration funding opportunities through the Department of Energy. NPGA staff will engage a select group of legislators who are champions for the propane industry and submit formal appropriations requests through those offices. As a part of this advocacy effort, NPGA established a new appropriations-based fly-in to Washington, DC, for select NPGA member company representatives to advocate for these initiatives on Capitol Hill.

**OUTLOOK**

NPGA looks to build on the success of last year and has plans to make a broader set of requests for FY 2021. All submissions must be completed before the end of the first quarter of 2020. In the coming months, NPGA will continue to track the status of these requests and advocate for appropriators to include propane priorities in legislative text.