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**U.S. NATURAL GAS BOOM SLASHES BILLIONS FROM WINTER HEATING BILLS  
AND PROVIDES MUCH-NEEDED ECONOMIC STIMULUS**

**WASHINGTON** — Speaking before the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Gas Committee Winter Meeting in Washington today, American Clean Skies Foundation CEO Gregory C. Staple said that despite an unusually harsh winter, Americans who use natural gas to heat their homes could save more than \$9 billion – or approximately \$300 per household in some states – compared to last year.

Staple's conclusion was based on a new study by Chicago-based Navigant Consulting Inc. and the American Clean Skies Foundation (ACSF), a not-for-profit dedicated to advancing a low-carbon environment through the expanded use of natural gas and renewables. The organizations analyzed recent price and production data released by the U.S. Energy Information Administration and concluded that the shale-gas boom has saved Americans billions of dollars in winter heating bills, as ample natural gas supplies kept fuel prices well below 2007 and 2008 levels, despite increasing residential demand.

Specifically, Staple reported that residential consumers are paying about \$6.5 billion less than two years ago and more than \$9 billion less than last year to heat their homes with natural gas, thanks in large part to the abundant production of U.S. natural gas, which has been driven by new shale gas finds. In fact, said Staple, the wholesale cost of natural gas as reflected by Henry Hub prices fell by more than \$18 billion year to year, and this drop in wholesale prices is expected to continue to be passed on to consumers in the coming months. Staple also noted that while gasoline and heating oil prices have also declined approximately 10 percent and 15 percent respectively in the two years from February 2008 to January 2010, natural gas prices have declined by 37 percent.

"The savings to consumers from heating their homes with natural gas are a de facto economic stimulus – comparable in size to the recently proposed Senate jobs bill," said Staple. "These findings show the role that U.S. natural gas reserves can play in spurring an economic recovery. We hope that policymakers in Washington will take note."

The full ACSF/Navigant analysis can be found at:  
<http://www.cleanskies.org/pdf/nci-acsf-natural-gas-savings-analysis.pdf>.

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*The American Clean Skies Foundation was founded in 2007 to advance America's energy independence and a cleaner, low-carbon environment through expanded use of natural gas and renewables.*