American manufacturers use natural gas to fuel and power a wide variety of processes. Chemical companies use ethane, a natural gas liquid derived from shale gas, as a feedstock. Competitively-priced natural gas and ethane are enabling chemical companies to build new plants, expand, or improve their facilities in the United States. Other industries stand to benefit as the downstream effects of shale gas are felt.

Plentiful and affordable natural gas supplies have transformed America’s chemical industry from the world’s high-cost producer five years ago to among the lowest-cost producers today. The United States now enjoys a decisive competitive advantage in the making of basic petrochemicals. Companies from around the world have announced plans to invest in new U.S. production capacity, leading to industry revival and new jobs. ACC analyzed the economic benefits of these investments.

NEW MANUFACTURING PROJECTS ARE GROWING OUR ECONOMY & CREATING JOBS

225 new chemical industry projects due to shale gas*

$138 billion in new capital investment

383 thousand direct and indirect jobs by 2023

$266 billion in new economic output

$19 billion in new tax revenue by 2023

POLICY PRIORITIES

Government policies will influence whether the U.S. fully realizes the shale gas opportunity.

Access - Allow access to natural gas reserves on government and private lands.

State Regulations - Continue responsible state-based regulations that avoid undue restrictions on production.

Infrastructure - Expedite the building of reliable infrastructure to transport supplies.

Permitting - Ensure a timely, transparent, and efficient regulatory permitting process for manufacturing projects and investments.

Tax Treatment - Maintain accelerated depreciation schedules for investments in new plant and equipment.

*Potential or started chemical industry projects announced as of March 2015

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