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 a decade 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 are investing 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

$203 billion in new capital investment

415 thousand direct & indirect jobs by 2025
342K add’l jobs generated by household spending

$289 billion in new economic output

343 new chemical industry projects due to shale gas*

The chemical industry is leading expansion in U.S. manufacturing

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.
Trade - Expand access to foreign markets for U.S. goods. Eliminate tariff and non-tariff trade barriers in domestic and international markets.

*Completed, started and potential chemical industry projects announced as of February 2020

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