October 26, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Enacting Pipeline Safety Reauthorization Before the End of the 119th Congress**

Dear Chairmen Cruz, Guthrie, and Graves and Ranking Members Cantwell, Pallone, and Larsen:

On behalf of the undersigned oil and natural gas trade associations, we write to urge you to negotiate and enact a comprehensive pipeline safety reauthorization before the 119th Congress adjourns.

Authorization for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) pipeline safety program lapsed on September 30, 2023, following enactment of the PIPES Act of 2020. Over the course of the 119th Congress, your committees have devoted significant time and effort to developing bipartisan pipeline safety legislation. With each committee having now acted, we respectfully encourage you to build on that work, resolve the remaining differences among the bills, and make every effort to enact a final package this year.

There is substantial bipartisan common ground on which to build. The Senate Commerce Committee advanced the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025 (S. 2975) on a bipartisan basis, and the full Senate approved the legislation by unanimous consent. In the House, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved the PIPES Act of 2025 (H.R. 5301) and the Energy and Commerce Committee reported the Pipeline Safety Authorization Act of 2026 (H.R. 9338), each with bipartisan support.

The three bills share many important objectives. Among other provisions, they would provide a multi-year reauthorization of PHMSA's pipeline safety program; strengthen state excavation damage prevention programs; reform the special permit process to add transparency and firm deadlines; refine the agency's cost-benefit analysis; and address outstanding rulemakings and congressional mandates. While differences remain among the proposals, we believe there is a strong foundation for bicameral negotiations.

A final reauthorization also presents an opportunity to advance several important safety and regulatory priorities across the pipeline sector, including:

- **Excavation damage prevention.** Excavation damage remains the leading cause of distribution pipeline incidents; codifying One Call leading practices will reduce damages and save lives.
- **Grant support for municipal and community-owned systems.** Extending PHMSA's program to repair, rehabilitate, and replace aging municipal distribution infrastructure serves the smallest systems and the communities that depend on them.
- **Timely implementation:** Promoting timely implementation of congressional mandates and greater accountability for agency action can improve regulatory certainty and allow PHMSA and operators to focus resources on pipeline safety.
- **Regulatory predictability and due process.** Special permit reform, uniform and timely permit processing, and a statutory opportunity for formal hearings in significant enforcement actions provide the certainty that supports prudent long-term investment.
- **Modern technology and performance-based standards.** Enabling operators to deploy proven safety technologies that meet or exceed the intent of older prescriptive rules — and eliminating duplicative oversight of in-plant piping — directs resources toward the highest-value safety work.
- **Stronger penalties for intentional attacks.** Criminal penalties for those who knowingly damage or disrupt pipeline infrastructure protect employees, communities, and continuity of service.

At its core, pipeline safety reauthorization is about ensuring that PHMSA has clear congressional direction, modern authorities, and the resources necessary to carry out its stated mission. It also provides operators with the regulatory certainty needed to plan and invest. With energy demand rising and the pipeline network expanding, a timely reauthorization would assist in meeting this challenge while protecting the public, supporting American energy leadership, and strengthening the economy that depends on safe, reliable and affordable delivery.

Our associations are pleased to have served as technical and operational resources to your committees throughout this process, and we remain at your disposal as you work to get this bill to the President's desk this year.

Respectfully,

American Gas Association (AGA)
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM)
American Petroleum Institute (API)
American Public Gas Association (APGA)
GPA Midstream Association
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA)
Liquid Energy Pipeline Association (LEPA)

**cc:**
The Honorable John Thune, Majority Leader, United States Senate
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Democratic Leader, United States Senate
The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives