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**For Immediate Release
1/13/2017**

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Comments on PHMSA's release of New Rules for Hazardous Liquid Pipelines

Carl Weimer the executive director of the Pipeline Safety Trust stated, **"We are happy that these rules have finally been released, but after waiting for over six years since this process began we are disappointed that the proposed rules do not address many of the major concerns raised from recent spills. Requiring leak detection is good, but without a standard to define how such systems need to perform the requirement is nearly meaningless. Requiring inspection of pipelines after major flooding and weather events is a good idea, but we had hoped that PHMSA would also require proactive efforts to prevent spills from pipelines before such events occur. Requiring pipelines be able to accommodate smart pigs is a great idea, but why are they allowing pipelines that are already 50 or 60 years old twenty more years to make these needed improvements? After major spills over the past few years where are the rules to require automated valves that so many have called for? While we support these new rules, with this country's aging pipeline infrastructure we are concerned that this level of slow incremental improvement will not be enough to keep our communities and environment safe. We also are disappointed that apparently the final rule was weakened based on cost benefit information submitted to PHMSA by the American Petroleum Institute after the comment period on the rule was closed, and discussed inappropriately in closed-door meetings between API, PHMSA and the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. "**

The Pipeline Safety Trust is pleased that PHMSA has issued new rules for hazardous liquid pipelines. After a quick review of the rule it appears there are a number of incremental improvements to the rules that ought to make hazardous liquid pipelines safer. These include a new requirement that would for the first time require pipeline companies who have pipelines that operate outside of high consequence areas to inspect their pipelines at least once every ten years, a new requirement for leak detection on all regulated pipelines, a new requirement that pipelines that could affect a high consequence area be able to accommodate in-line inspection devices within 20 years, and other miscellaneous clarifications.

The Pipeline Safety Trust is the only national non-profit organization that acts in the public interest to promote pipeline safety through education and advocacy, by increasing access to information, and by building partnerships with residents, safety advocates, government, and industry, that result in safer communities and a healthier environment.