Overview of recent and pending changes that will affect pipeline safety

Carl Weimer, Executive Director
What’s Happened Recently?

- Pipeline Safety Rules put on hold or slowed down
- “Regulatory Reform” initiative questions need for new regulations
- Greater support for new pipeline infrastructure and fossil fuel production
- Greater support for expansion of fossil fuel use
- Change in view of responsibility for Climate Change action
What’s Pending

• Clarity on the “two for one” executive order
• Clarity on whether long pending rules are just being reviewed, changed significantly, or dumped
• Clarity on whether Congress can continue to be bipartisan when it comes to the safety of existing pipeline infrastructure
• Clarity on how the pipeline industry will work toward the agreed upon goal of zero incidents
• Growing concern on terrorism and vandalism of pipelines
Other forces

- Gluts in gas and oil require additional exports to keep production up, which means new pipelines, and runs counter to concerns about eminent domain and climate change.

- Increasing polarization is being met by increasingly living in echo chambers, and not wanting to engage with the “unpersuadables”

- “Win the war” mentality is increasingly undermining needed public awareness/education/engagement efforts