Reauthorization Update
Federal Pipeline Safety Laws

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Protect Public Safety
Pipelines are the safest way to deliver the energy American families and consumers use every day. However, pipelines are industrial facilities we must respect to keep them operating safely. Congress can do more to prevent threats to public safety and the environment from dangerous activity around pipelines.

Harness Technology & Innovation
Hi-tech tools can now scan pipelines like an MRI or ultrasound at the doctor’s office. Pipeline operators have the opportunity to find issues early, perform maintenance and keep pipelines operating safely, but Federal regulations can’t keep pace with fast-moving innovations. Congress can do more to allow PHMSA and pipeline operators to improve safety by pilot testing innovations and learn from shared pipeline safety insights.

Improve PHMSA Programs & Regulations
PHMSA and the pipeline safety programs it administers can benefit from updated regulations, processes and tools. Congress can do more to encourage PHMSA to modernize its regulations and take advantage of newly developed pipeline safety best practices.
Protect Public Safety
• Strengthen Protections Against Damaging or Disrupting Pipeline Facilities

Harness Technology & Innovation
• Pilot Test New Pipeline Safety Technologies & Approaches
• Encourage Joint Stakeholder Problem Solving by PHMSA, Operators, Technology Providers & Public Safety Advocates
• Regular PHMSA & Stakeholder Review of Pipeline Safety R&D Advances
• Encourage Voluntary Discovery, Disclosure, Correction & Prevention of Violations

Improve PHMSA Programs & Regulations
• Help PHMSA Hire & Retain Expert Pipeline Inspectors
• Improve Due Process in PHMSA Enforcement Proceedings
• Tailor Pipeline Requirements to Operating Status
• Adjust PHMSA Incident Reporting Requirements for Inflation
• Incorporate the Latest Best Practices on Inspections, Repairs & Tank Maintenance
Bi-Partisan Legislating

Legislation advancing new safety protections cannot become law without bipartisan cooperation. Partisan action will delay adoption of new safety requirements.

Focus on Safety

While Congress has the power to include issues outside traditional pipeline safety provisions, doing so will at best delay safety improvements and likely prevent legislating new safety laws.

Work Together

Coalitions supporting action can positively influence Congress. Pipeline stakeholders including industry, labor, environmental and safety groups worked together on a voluntary information sharing program. Their joint advocacy can help Congress adopt the work of this group.