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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 1, 2020

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### **Pipeline Safety Trust Announces New Executive Director**

BELLINGHAM, Washington – The Pipeline Safety Trust is pleased to announce the appointment of Bill Caram as Executive Director. Caram was hired as Deputy Director in March of this year to allow for a smooth transition of leadership from Carl Weimer, who has served as Executive Director since 2004. Weimer will stay on staff as Special Projects Advisor.

Caram comes to the Pipeline Safety Trust from the Deschutes River Conservancy in Bend, Oregon where he served the collaborative environmental organization as Director of Finance and Development. After learning the landscape of the nation's pipeline safety and its stakeholders, he is looking forward to leading the organization's push for stronger regulations with less industry influence and helping to create an informed public who can effectively advocate for their safety.

On his new role, Caram says, "Along with the oil and gas industry and the regulators, we share the common goal of zero incidents. I'm excited to lead our way there." He is especially interested in working to begin the regulation of the nation's dangerous natural gas gathering lines, repeal the burdensome and redundant cost-benefit requirement which continually inhibits much-needed new regulations, and reduce the unconscionable amount of methane emissions from gas pipelines. But beyond these specific issues, Caram envisions fostering a group of pipeline safety experts much broader than just industry engineers and government regulators, saying, "People should take an active interest in the pipelines in their communities and effectively advocate for their safe siting and operation. I hope to continue the Pipeline Safety Trust's work in helping them do that."

The Pipeline Safety Trust is thrilled that Carl Weimer is continuing his tenure with the Trust as Special Projects Advisor. Weimer steps down from the role of Executive Director as a titan of pipeline safety. Over his 16 years at the Trust, Weimer served as a member of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee, the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association's External Advisory Panel, and the governor-appointed Washington Citizen Committee on Pipeline Safety. He has been called to testify to the U.S. House and Senate multiple times and as a witness by the National Transportation Safety Board. In 2015, Weimer was honored as a Champion of Change by the



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White House for his pipeline safety efforts. Among his innumerable, notable accomplishments, he counts as his proudest:

- Working with the late Senator Frank Lautenberg (NJ) to draft the language for the federal statute that required the installation of tens of millions of excess flow valves on homes across the U.S. to save countless lives;
- Encouraging, cajoling, and sometimes shaming federal and state pipeline safety agencies into making pipeline information easily available to the public; and
- Organizing 15 national pipeline safety conferences to bring differing stakeholder groups together to find ways to make pipelines safer

“I am very thankful to Carl for all he has done to protect communities from the risks of pipelines and to establish the PST as a national leader on pipeline safety,” says Sara Gosman, the Pipeline Safety Trust’s Board President. “Because of Carl’s tireless advocacy, we all live in a safer place. I’m grateful that we will continue to benefit from his expertise and I’m excited about the bright future of the PST under Bill’s leadership. The board looks forward to working with Bill and the rest of the amazing staff to continue our tradition of fearless independence and proud commitment to the public interest.”

**About the Pipeline Safety Trust:** The Pipeline Safety Trust (PST) is the only national non-profit organization that acts in the public interest to promote fuel transportation safety through education and advocacy. By increasing access to information and by building partnerships with residents, safety advocates, government, and industry, PST helps create safer communities and a healthier environment. PST was formed in the wake of the 1999 Olympic Pipeline tragedy in Bellingham, WA. In helping form PST, U.S. District Judge Barbara Rothstein noted that such a small organization was like “Bambi taking on Godzilla,” but she chided the pipeline industry to listen to and work with the Pipeline Safety Trust so tragedies like Bellingham do not happen again.