

ASSOCIATION OF OIL PIPE LINES

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The Honorable W.J.(Billy) Tauzin
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member:

We are writing to thank you for your work and that of your staffs on H.R. 3609, the Pipeline Infrastructure Protection to Enhance Security and Safety Act. Our overriding goal has been the development of a pipeline safety reauthorization bill that can achieve broad bipartisan support in Congress. The version of the measure we understand will be offered today before the Committee serves that goal.

We appreciate the careful attention the Committee has given to the many issues presented by this legislation. While we cannot endorse each individual provision of the anticipated managers' amendment, we certainly believe it presents a balanced and reasonable basis on which to keep the reauthorization process moving forward and would urge Members to vote for the amendment today and favorably report the bill.

The managers' amendment continues to present some concerns that we believe require further attention. In particular, we need assurance that the language of Section 10 covering the qualification of pipeline personnel would not require revision of the existing qualification rule. However, we pledge to continue to work with you, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Senate, and the Secretary of Transportation as the process moves forward to harmonize the Energy and Commerce Committee's provisions with other versions that have also achieved broad bipartisan support.

Sincerely,


Benjamin S. Cooper
Executive Director

cc: Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee