

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

815 SIXTEENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

JOHN J. SWEENEY
PRESIDENT

RICHARD L. TRUMKA
SECRETARY-TREASURER

LINDA CHAVEZ-THOMPSON
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT



LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

(202) 637-5090

October 3, 2000

Dear Representative:

It is our understanding that the House may very soon have under consideration S.2438, the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act. While this legislation recently passed the Senate, we believe it to be flawed and in need of improvement in a number of areas. However, it is our further understanding that the intention is to bring this bill to the floor under a procedure that would prohibit strengthening amendments from being offered.

Therefore, the AFL-CIO would urge you to defeat S.2438 in its current form. We would hope that a stronger, fairer bill could be crafted to move with the regular order regarding amendments.

The tragedies in Bellingham, Washington and Carlsbad, New Mexico highlight the need for a more effective federal statute. However, S.2438 does not adequately protect pipeline employees involved in accidents, provide whistleblower protections or provide training of workers. Also, the ranking members on both the House Committee on Commerce and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure have raised important pipeline safety issues that could not be addressed under the anticipated procedures for House consideration of S.2438.

In summary, the AFL-CIO shares the view that a more effective federal pipeline safety statute is needed. However, S.2438 should be opposed and an appropriate House proposal should be crafted to move under the regular order.

Sincerely,

Peggy Taylor, Director
DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATION