

January 15, 2014

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
436 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pompeo,

The Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI) Energy Piping Systems Division (EPSD) promotes the use of plastic pressure pipe made of high-density polyethylene, polyamide, composite piping included in the gas distribution and oil and gas gathering market. PPI/EPSD strongly supports the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act (HR 161), which would implement necessary steps to streamline the currently sluggish process subject to natural gas pipeline permit applications.

The shale energy revolution continues to serve as a key economic driver. According to IHS Global Insight, it is estimated that between now and 2025, 47,000 miles of new pipelines will be built to connect shale gas and oil to industrial and consumer markets in the U.S. This represents an investment of over \$100 billion, much of which will be in the capital equipment and supplies needed for pipeline construction. Approximately four million jobs are expected to be created, either directly or indirectly related to the energy industry.

According to a 2014 report by the INGAA Foundation, almost 14,000 miles of new gas gathering and 7,800 oil gathering lines will be needed every year, requiring an investment of approximately \$3 billion per year. Despite the growing need to expand the nation's pipeline network in order to meet our energy needs, pipeline projects around the country are often delayed over extended reviews while acquiring the necessary permits from various federal and state agencies.

HR 161 would require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to approve or deny a pipeline permit application within 12 months of receipt. The bill would also require other federal agencies to approve any associated permits or approvals within 90 days. If those deadlines are missed, approvals would be deemed as given, allowing applications to move forward.

PPI/EPSD supports legislative efforts to streamline the permitting process in order to get important projects off the ground. HR 161 would authorize FERC to enforce deadlines for approval associated with these permits, and we look forward to seeing the legislation pass the House of Representatives in the near future. We thank you for your continued leadership on this important issue.

Best Regards,



Randall Knapp, Director of Engineering