



June 7, 2016

Hon. John Thune  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce,  
Science and Transportation  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Debra Fischer  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Chairwoman Fischer,

On behalf of the members of the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA), I am writing to express our support for S. 2276, the PIPES Act of 2016. INGAA represents interstate natural gas transmission pipeline operators in the U.S. and Canada. We appreciate your bipartisan efforts to enact pipeline safety reauthorization legislation.

Overall, S. 2276 meets INGAA's goals for the current reauthorization of the Pipeline Safety Act. These goals include: reasonable authorization levels; a focus on PHMSA completing the regulatory mandates under the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty and Job Creation Act of 2011; and a requirement that PHMSA set minimum federal safety standards for underground natural gas storage facilities.

The bill also includes new emergency order authority for PHMSA. We appreciate the interest in creating this new authority, but feel strongly that such potentially broad and open-ended authority must include strong due process protections. Several additional changes were made to this section since committee markups, and INGAA strongly supports these modifications.

Finally, we hope Congress will continue its oversight of the pipeline safety program, and especially the recent natural gas transmission Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, proposed by PHMSA in March, to implement some of the mandates from the 2011 reauthorization. INGAA members are resolutely committed to enhancing the safety of natural gas pipeline transportation and look forward to working with you to ensure that the benefits of this and past reauthorizations are realized.

Please let us know if you have questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. F. Santa".

Donald F. Santa  
President and CEO