

September 15, 2025

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chair
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

On behalf of the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM), I write to express our strong support of H.R. 5301, the *Promoting Innovation in Pipeline Efficiency and Safety (PIPES) Act of 2025*, particularly the provisions included within this reauthorization legislation dedicated to excavation damage prevention.

AEM represents more than 1,100 companies that manufacture equipment and deliver essential services across agriculture, construction, utility, mining, and forestry. Together, our industry powers 2.3 million jobs in every state and contributes \$316 billion annually to the U.S. economy. AEM members don't just depend on America's infrastructure—they design and build the equipment that makes it work, above and below ground, driving progress and productivity nationwide.

We recognize that protecting underground infrastructure is a critical element of public safety and project efficiency. The PIPES Act takes meaningful strides to support this effort by addressing the persistent problem of damage to underground facilities during excavation activity. The bill would update PHMSA's assessment criteria for State Damage Prevention Programs to include additional leading practices state one-call programs should consider implementing to prevent excavation damage to pipelines and other underground utilities. These leading practices include requiring the use of commercially available technologies to locate underground facilities, such as geographic information systems (GIS), which offer the most detailed and prolific pipeline mapping available.

We believe that effective damage prevention in project development begins at the earliest stages of planning and design. Delivering well-designed plans that minimize utility conflicts, coupled with standardized digital data on utility infrastructure, empowers excavators to optimize construction planning and execution. Leveraging virtual design and construction technologies further reduces the likelihood of damage, accelerates project timelines, and generates substantial cost savings. A critical element of this approach is the proper and standardized documentation of utilities at the time of installation.

AEM supports the PIPES Act of 2025 and its efforts to enhance excavation damage prevention practices. By incorporating modern technologies, improving planning and design processes, and ensuring consistent documentation, this legislation will enhance public safety, strengthen infrastructure reliability, and improve project outcomes nationwide.

We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and look forward to working together to ensure its successful implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kate Fox Wood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "K".

Kate Fox Wood
Vice President, Federal Affairs
Association of Equipment Manufacturers