



December 6, 2023

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Troy Nehls
Chairman
Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and
Hazardous Materials

The Honorable Donald Payne, Jr.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and
Hazardous Materials

Dear Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, Chairman Nehls, and Ranking Member Payne:

The American Gas Association (AGA) and the American Public Gas Association (APGA) are pleased to support the *Pipeline Efficiency and Safety (PIPES) Act of 2023* (H.R. 6494), the substantive and bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's pipeline safety programs for the next four years.

Pipeline safety is the top priority for our members and our industry. AGA and APGA very much appreciate the Committee's practical interest in working closely with the regulated community to produce legislation that reflects pipeline sector operations and engineering realities and includes provisions that will improve and clarify operations and address longstanding pipeline safety related public policy challenges. Some of the more helpful provisions within the PIPES Act include:

- Language to reduce pipeline excavation damage incidents
- An evaluation of existing U.S. and international hydrogen-natural gas blending operations
- Criminal penalties for those who willingly and knowingly damage pipeline operations or related construction.
- Creating a pipeline safety voluntary information sharing system
- An appropriate 4-year reauthorization time period

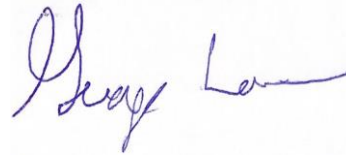
AGA and APGA appreciate that the introduction and markup of the *PIPES Act of 2023* is just the first step in passing the latest version of pipeline safety reauthorization into law. Post markup, we look forward to working with you and your colleagues as reauthorization consideration

moves to the Energy and Commerce Committee and to the Senate. Please continue to use the Associations, and our respective memberships, as operational and technical resources as reauthorization moves forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart Saulters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping tail.

Stuart Saulters
Vice President of Government Relations
American Public Gas Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Lowe". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large initial "G" and a long, horizontal tail.

George Lowe
Vice President, Government Affairs and
Public Policy
American Gas Association