



The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larson
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Daniel Webster
Chairman
Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and
Hazardous Materials
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dina Titus
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and
Hazardous Materials
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for H.R. 5301, the Promoting Innovation in Pipeline Efficiency and Safety (PIPES) Act of 2025

Dear Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Larson, Chairman Webster, and Ranking Member Titus:

On behalf of the American Public Gas Association (APGA)¹ and the nearly 1,000 community-owned natural gas systems operating in 40 states across the country, we write in support of H.R. 5301, the Promoting Innovation in Pipeline Efficiency and Safety (PIPES) Act of 2025. We applaud the Committee's bipartisan leadership in introducing this legislation and encourage swift action to reinforce our shared commitment to pipeline safety.

APGA's members include not-for-profit gas distribution systems owned by municipalities and other local government entities, all directly accountable to the citizens they serve. Public gas systems are committed to safely providing efficient, reliable, and affordable energy to their customers. The decisions Congress makes regarding the reauthorization of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) will have a direct impact on our members' ability to maintain and improve upon the safe delivery of natural gas to the customers and communities they serve. APGA is particularly supportive of the following PIPES Act provisions:

- Sec. 2 – Four-Year Reauthorization of PHMSA & Authorization of the Safe Energy for Communities Updating and Replacing Infrastructure for Natural Gas Systems (SECURING Systems): The four-year authorization provides certainty and stability to PHMSA's mission. Additionally, the section's authorization of funding for the SECURING Systems grants to municipalities and community-owned utilities to repair, rehabilitate, or replace aging distribution pipeline infrastructure will provide critical resources for projects that directly address pipeline safety.

¹ American Public Gas Association <apga.org>

- Sec. 18 – Excavation Damage Prevention: Excavation damage remains the leading cause of serious incidents on distribution pipelines. Strengthening state damage prevention programs and promoting leading practices will help to reduce preventable incidents and enhance public safety.
- Sec. 21 – Penalty for Causing a Defect in or Disrupting Operation of Pipeline Infrastructure: Extending penalties to deter intentional damage or disruption of pipeline facilities will help further safeguard communities and strengthen the resilience of our energy systems.
- Sec. 24 – Pipeline Safety Voluntary Information-Sharing System: Establishing a confidential, voluntary information-sharing system will promote collaboration across the industry, helping operators and regulators identify risks and adopt best practices.

Safety is, and always has been, the top priority for APGA members. We appreciate the bipartisan commitment to reauthorizing PHMSA and reaffirming its mission through this legislation. The PIPES Act of 2025 represents a strong step forward in ensuring that communities across the country, especially those served by public gas systems, have the resources, tools, and regulatory framework necessary to continue the safe delivery of affordable and reliable energy.

We urge the Committee to swiftly advance H.R. 5301, and we look forward to continuing to work with you on behalf of public gas systems and the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin C. Kurilla". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Erin" and last name "Kurilla" being more prominent than the middle initial "C".

Erin Kurilla
Executive Vice President, Vice President of Advocacy and Operations
American Public Gas Association