

April 16, 2016

The Honorable Jeff Denham  
Chairman, House Subcommittee on Railways, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Denham,

The Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI) 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 supports the Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety (PIPES) Act of 2016 (HR 4937) and specifically the provisions aimed at evaluating the latest innovations in pipeline materials and corrosion prevention technology in Sec. 21 of the legislation.

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. Moreover, 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, according to a 2014 report by the INGAA Foundation,

Recognizing the increasing role of plastic piping in gas distribution and oil and gas gathering systems, PPI supports language in HR 4937 that would require the General Accountability Office (GAO) to study and report on latest innovations in technologies and pipeline materials used in pipeline transportation to mitigate problems stemming from internal and external corrosion.

Specifically, the GAO study would include:

- *the range of piping materials, including plastic materials, used to transport hazardous liquids and natural gas in the United States and in other developed countries around the world;*
- *the types of technologies used for corrosion prevention; and*
- *an analysis of the costs and benefits, including safety benefits, associated with the use of such materials and technologies.*

PPI believes such an evaluation would provide valuable information to all levels of government, industry and the general public about contemporary plastic piping materials used in pipeline transportation and their benefits with regard to corrosion control, reducing “fugitive” methane escapes, enhanced damage prevention and other important issues addressed in pipeline safety. We support the pipeline safety bill and look forward to its passage in the remaining months of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The Plastics Pipe Institute