



December 1, 2023

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

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

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

The Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI) is the leading trade association representing more than 150 companies involved in the use of plastic pipe in our nation's infrastructure. PPI members produce plastic pipe, composite pipe, fittings, and components used in our nation's network of energy infrastructure. Proven polyethylene (PE), polyamide (PA) and advanced spoolable composite piping represent the vast majority of piping used in gas distribution and a large portion oil & gas gathering markets. PPI supports the Promoting Innovation in Pipeline Efficiency and Safety Act (PIPES Act), and we encourage the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to approve the legislation before the end of this year.

The PIPES Act will reauthorize the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and nation's pipeline safety program for the next four years, and includes several provisions to advance traditional and emerging fuels and technologies, and provides increased transparency. Specifically, the bill would require PHMSA to maintain a list of industry standards considered for incorporation by reference (IBR) into the pipeline safety regulations. PPI supports requirements for timely IBR of proven voluntary industry standards with positive impacts on pipeline safety. The PIPES Act would require PHMSA to "review, and update as necessary, incorporated industry standards that have been adopted, either partially or in full," and to maintain a publicly available list of all industry standards considered for adoption. Importantly, the language would require PHMSA to "include the reasoning for not adopting an industry standard," which is a needed improvement to the IBR process.

The legislation also includes a mandated study assessing the existing and potential use of pipelines made of composite materials to safely transport hydrogen and hydrogen blended with natural gas. PPI members make spoolable composite piping, which allows for operating at higher pressures while providing the highest level of protection from corrosion and leakage available in pipeline transportation.

PPI supports a study on composite piping, as well as the mandated study on hydrogen-natural gas blending in Sec. 20, which calls for the Comptroller General to evaluate changes that operators have implemented related to several factors, including pipeline materials used to construct or modify pipeline infrastructure.

PPI supports the PIPES Act of 2023 and we thank you for your leadership in introducing the legislation. We look forward to seeing the bill approved by the committee and considered by the House of Representatives as soon as possible.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Fink". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David M. Fink
President