

Chairman Brett Guthrie
Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Energy
“Strengthening American Energy: A Review of Pipeline Safety
Policy.”

July 22, 2025

As prepared for delivery

Thank you, Chairman Latta, and thank you to our witnesses for being here today.

Pipelines are critical to the safe transportation and distribution of oil, natural gas, other energy products, along with hazardous liquid products. As demand for energy is projected to skyrocket over the next decade, we must ensure our nation’s pipeline safety laws are ready to meet the moment.

The Energy and Commerce Committee plays an important role in the reauthorization of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration’s (PHMSA) pipeline safety program. Under the new leadership of Chair Latta and myself, I hope we can work in a bipartisan manner in this effort.

PHMSA oversees the U.S. energy pipeline network of over 3.3 million miles of onshore pipelines. To accomplish this task, PHMSA partners with States to ensure the entire network is safely operated and maintained.

According to a 2019 PHMSA report, pipelines delivered 180 million gallons of energy per safety incident while trucks delivered only 55 million gallons per safety incident and trains only 50 million gallons. Over the last 20 years, serious pipeline incidents have been reduced by approximately 34 percent.

To continue this downward trend, PHMSA must operate within its statutory authority and maintain its focus on public safety. Unfortunately, under the previous administration, PHMSA strayed from this core responsibility—focusing more on environmental agendas than safety.

The current PHMSA has a busy docket, promulgating and finalizing statutorily mandated regulations, updating regulations that are decades old, and refocusing the agency on its essential mission.

Today's hearing will provide an important foundation as the Committee examines the status of outstanding rulemakings from the PIPES Act of 2020, ways to close penalty loopholes for pipeline vandalism, opportunities to streamline processes, and the role emerging technologies can play in mitigating risks and increasing efficiencies across the pipeline system.

I believe a major consideration for the future of pipeline safety is ensuring adequate capacity is available. As operators work to replace aging infrastructure, we must have capacity available to take pipelines temporarily offline for upgrades and repairs, while still meeting the needs of American consumers.

Pipelines are essential to the energy security of the United States. I look forward to working with Chair Latta and Ranking Members Pallone and Castor to strengthen our nation's pipeline network.

Thank you, and I yield back.