



June 8, 2015

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop,

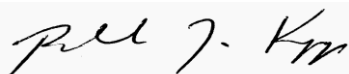
The Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI) Energy Piping Systems Division (EPSD) promotes the use of plastic pressure pipe made of polyethylene, polyamide, and composite piping used in the gas distribution and oil and gas gathering market. PPI/EPSD supports legislation that would modernize and improve the permitting process for natural gas pipelines, and we encourage the committee to approve the National Energy Security Corridors Act (HR 2295).

According to a 2014 report by the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) Foundation, approximately 14,000 miles of new gas gathering and 7,800 miles of new oil gathering lines will be needed every year, requiring an investment of approximately \$3 billion per year. Despite the growing need to expand the nation's pipeline network in order to meet today's energy needs, pipeline projects on private and public lands are often delayed over extended reviews while acquiring the necessary permits from various federal and state agencies.

Natural gas production on state and private lands increased by 38 percent between 2010 and 2014 while production on federal lands fell by 30 percent over the same time period, according to the Congressional Research Service. The Department of Interior (DOI) currently has the authority to issue permits and right-of-ways for the construction of natural gas pipelines across federal land. However, language included in the Mineral Leasing Act's definition of "federal lands" exempts plots managed by the National Park System (NPS). This leaves Congress in charge of permitting individual natural gas pipeline projects on NPS properties, creating yet more bureaucratic challenges that sometimes add years to the permitting process. DOI is fully equipped to review proposals for natural gas pipelines on these properties, and this legislation would confirm that.

PPI/EPSD estimates that more than 625 million pounds of polyethylene and polyamides, and more than 25 million feet of spoolable composite piping are produced and distributed across the country every year. These materials are increasingly used for natural gas and oil production and transportation, providing leak-proof, resilient piping that is highly resistant to corrosion. A streamlined pipeline permitting process, provided in part through passage of HR 2295, is needed to open the door to key pipeline projects and increased use of this superior piping alternative.

Best Regards,



Randall Knapp, Director of Engineering