

March 4, 2026

**Opening Statement of Chairman Brett Guthrie  
Subcommittee on Energy Hearing:  
“America’s Energy Infrastructure: Authorizing Pipeline Safety”**

Today’s legislative hearing advances the Committee’s work to reauthorize the federal pipeline safety program, administered by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, or PHMSA [*FEM-SA*].

PHMSA’s pipeline safety program promotes safe delivery of more than two-thirds of our nation’s energy products to market, through its regulations and oversight in partnership with state safety programs.

As we consider today’s pipeline safety discussion draft and the work and priorities of PHMSA, we should not lose focus on the essential role of pipelines.

The energy supplied through pipelines—the safest and most affordable form of fuel transport—is vital for keeping our lights

on, for heating our homes, and for making many of the products our modern society relies upon.

Pipeline infrastructure networks includes about 2.4 million miles of natural gas lines serving about 74 million American homes and businesses. And there are half-a-million miles of oil and natural gas transmission lines, and the related storage infrastructure, which serve communities, manufacturers, refiners, and our transportation sector.

The recent winter storm Fern clearly demonstrated the benefits of this essential infrastructure. People had the gas they needed to heat their homes during one of the largest cold weather emergencies in years, and natural-gas-fired power generation had the supplies to produce the power needed when demand reached its peak.

This was lifesaving performance, made possible by the pipeline transmission and storage network that is designed to deliver the fuels Americans need, when they need it.

We need a regulatory system designed to serve the lifesaving value of a safe and efficient pipeline infrastructure, and we need to expand capacity to expand the benefits of energy.

More capacity means lower prices.

The discussion draft today provides a great opportunity to meet what should be a bipartisan goal of expanding the safe delivery of affordable, reliable energy.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to provide the tools and guidance this Administration needs to get this done right.

Thank you, and I yield back.