

Commonsense fixes needed to protect communities from CO2 pipeline hazards and to correct gaps in the House T&I PIPES Act

October 6, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz and Maria Cantwell
US Senate Committee on Science Commerce and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Chair Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of an alliance of public-interest, landowner, Indigenous, and environmental justice organizations, we write to register our dissatisfaction with the House Transportation & Infrastructure PIPES Act and to urge the Senate Commerce Committee to advance evidence-based safety measures that protect communities from dangerous CO2 pipelines.

As documented in a [May 15 letter](#) to House and Senate leadership and a [Sept 17 letter](#) to House T&I leadership, the House approach to carbon dioxide safety is wholly inadequate. Since CO2 pipelines are almost entirely funded through [hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars](#) and require the taking of vast numbers of private properties via eminent domain and thus violations of communities' right to self-determination, the least Congress can do is ensure that federal pipeline safety law will protect threatened landowners and communities.

We urge the Committee to include the following safety measures in its bill:

- Require operators and developers to disclose emergency-response information to state and local first responders, route permitting agencies, and the public, including plume dispersion maps, to allow rigorous state, local, and private emergency response planning and route selection.
- Require CO2 pipeline companies to fund local emergency response planning and preparedness including training, drills, equipment, personal protective equipment, and real-time public alert systems.
- Clarify that nothing in the Pipeline Safety Act prevents states and local governments from setting zoning and routing requirements for hazardous liquid or CO2 pipeline facilities that serve safety objectives, consistent with PHMSA's understanding detailed in [letters](#) to proposed CO2 operators.
- Clarify that the Pipeline Safety Act does not regulate pipelines after they have been permanently removed from service, thereby confirming that state and local governments may protect landowner property interests through mitigation of abandoned pipeline infrastructure. Landowners should not be forced to bear post-abandonment impacts such as soil disturbance, interference with agricultural drainage/tile, and constraints on future development.

We urge the Senate Commerce Committee to require PHMSA to:

- Establish a default minimum 2 mile emergency planning zone for CO2 pipelines;
- Set safety standards for CO2 pipeline leak detection;
- Require shorter distances between automatic shutoff valves;
- Establish limits on contaminants that drive corrosion and brittle fractures;
- Strengthen fracture-control requirements;
- Continue research on odorants;
- Require public alert systems via texts and phone calls in the event of a rupture; and
- Disclosure of public communications in multiple languages.

We stand ready to work with the lawmakers to ensure we have CO2 pipeline laws that put the safety and well being of communities above that of project developers who seek to profit by exploiting communities with these dangerous projects.

Sincerely,

Original Signatories

Alternatives for Community & Environment
(ACE)

Bold Alliance

Center for Biological Diversity

Center for International Environmental Law

CURE

Earthjustice

Eco-Justice Collaborative

Food & Water Watch

FreshWater Accountability Project

Hip Hop Caucus

Honor the Earth

Indigenous Environmental Network

Just Transition Northwest Indiana

Ohio Valley Environmental Advocates

Port Arthur Community Action Network
(PACAN)

Science and Environmental Health Network

Sierra Club

The Raices Collab Project

WE ACT for Environmental Justice

7 Directions of Service

Signatories:

Air Alliance Houston

Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy
Environments

Alsen St Irma Lee Community Village
Alternatives for Community &
Environment (ACE)
Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.
Better Brazoria: Clean Air & Water
Freeport Tx
Beyond Extreme Energy
Bold Alliance
Bucks Environmental Action
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Coalfield Justice
Center for International Internationa Law
Center for Progressive Reform
Central Illinois Healthy Community
Alliance
Citizens Against Heartland
Greenwashing Projects
Citizens Against Predatory Pipelines
Clean Energy Now Texas (CENT)
Climate Justice Alliance
Climate Reality Project Chicago Metro
Chapter
Climate Reality Project Chicago Metro
Chapter
Coalition to Stop CO2 Pipelnes
Commission Shift
Concerned Citizens against Wabash
Valley Resources

Concerned Health Professionals of
Pennsylvania
Consumer Watchdog
CURE
DNC Council on the Environment and
Climate Crisis
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
Earth Ethics, Inc.
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Eco-Justice Collaborative
Elders Climate Action
Elders Climate Action (ECA) Southern
California (SoCal) Chapter
Endangered Species Coalition
Extinction Rebellion Houston
Faith Coalition for the Common Good
FCCPR Climate Task Force
Florida Physicians for Social
Responsibility
Food & Water Watch
For a Better Bayou
Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice
FracTracker Alliance
FreshWater Accountability Project
Friends of the Earth U.S.

Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility

Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

Greater Highland Area Concerned Citizens

GreenLatinos

Greenpeace USA

Healthy Gulf

Healthy Ocean Coalition

Hip Hop Caucus

Honor the Earth

Illinois People's Action

Immaculate Heart Community

Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition

Indigenous Environmental Network

Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement

Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness/Advocacy Network, IUUWAN

Just Transition Northwest Indiana

Just Zero

Kare

Medical Students for a Sustainable Future

Metro East Green Alliance

Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action

MoveOn.org HobokenRESIST!

Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS)

NWSOFA-Indivisible

Ohio Valley Environmental Advocates

Oil and Gas Action Network

Oil Change International

Partnership for Policy Integrity

People over Petro coalition

Physicians for Social Responsibility

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Arizona

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Colorado

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Iowa

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine

Physicians for Social Responsibility, San Francisco Bay

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Texas

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Washington

Pipeline Awareness Network for the Northeast

Port Arthur Community Action
Network(PACAN)

Public Citizen

Putnam County CO2 Action Team
(PCCAT)

Putnam Progressives

Rachel Carson Council

San Francisco Baykeeper

SanDiego350

Save Ohio Parks

Save Our Illinois Land

Science and Environmental Health
Network

Sierra Club

Stand.earth

Sustainable Mill Valley

Sustainable Springfield

Texas Campaign for the Environment

The Alliance for Affordable Energy

The Enviro Show

The People's Justice Council

The Raices Collab Project

Tompkins County Climate Protection
Initiative

Unitarian Universalist Advocacy
Network of Illinois

Unitarian Universalists for a Just
Economic Community

Waterkeeper Alliance

Waterspirit

WE ACT for Environmental Justice

1000 Grandmothers for future
Generations

350 Bay Area Action

350 Colorado

350 Seattle

350 South Bay Los Angeles

350 Southland Legislative Alliance

350 Triangle

350.org

350Eugene

350Hawaii

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