

United States Senate

June 16, 2015

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for your leadership and oversight of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the federal government's responsibility in ensuring safe and environmentally sound transportation of natural resources through America's pipelines, railroads, highways, waterways, and airspace.

Pipelines are one of the safest modes of transporting oil and other hazardous materials across our nation. PHMSA is responsible for training both federal and state pipeline inspectors, maintaining pipeline safety standards, as well as establishing and enforcing design, construction, and operation regulations. The agency's jurisdiction covers approximately 2.6 million miles of pipeline across the United States, with approximately 18,800 miles across my home state of Montana.

In recent years, Montana has experienced the consequences of failed pipelines. Pipelines carrying crude oil ruptured near Laurel, Montana in July 2011 and near Glendive, Montana in January 2015, releasing 63,000 and 30,000 gallons respectively into the Yellowstone River.

As a Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I share your commitment to safe and environmentally sound transportation of our natural resources. With PHMSA's authorization expiring on September 30, 2015, I request, at the Committee's earliest opportunity, a hearing examining PHMSA's reauthorization and its efficacy in overseeing and enforcing federal regulations.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and I look forward to continuing to work with you on increasing safety and efficiency in all facets of hazardous material transportation.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator