



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

February 24, 2009

The Honorable James L. Oberstar
Chairman
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Section 19 (c) of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (Pub.L. 107-355) requires the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to report to Congress each year on any pipeline safety recommendations made by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) during the prior year and to provide a copy of the response for each such recommendation. This letter is submitted in fulfillment of this requirement.

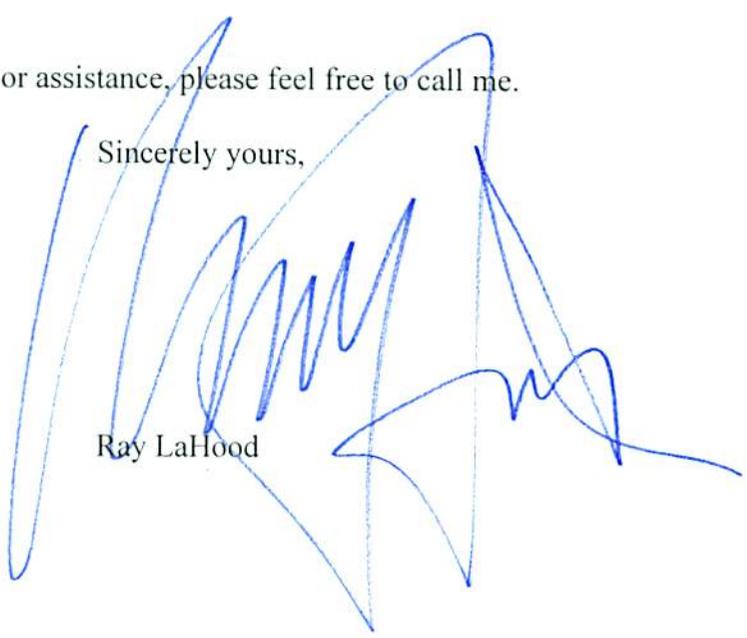
The NTSB did not issue a pipeline safety recommendation to PHMSA in 2008. We take our responsibility to address all recommendations from NTSB very seriously. The PHMSA continues to work aggressively to close all open recommendations issued by NTSB in the years past.

An identical letter has been sent to the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

If I can provide further information or assistance, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely yours,

Ray LaHood

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THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

February 24, 2009

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hutchison:

Section 19 (c) of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (Pub.L. 107-355) requires the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to report to Congress each year on any pipeline safety recommendations made by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) during the prior year and to provide a copy of the response for each such recommendation. This letter is submitted in fulfillment of this requirement.

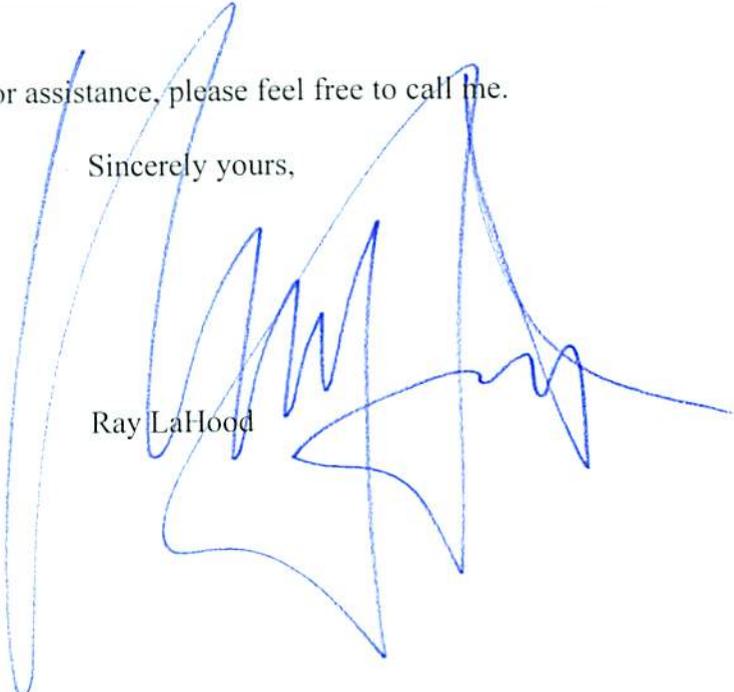
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

February 24, 2009

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Energy
and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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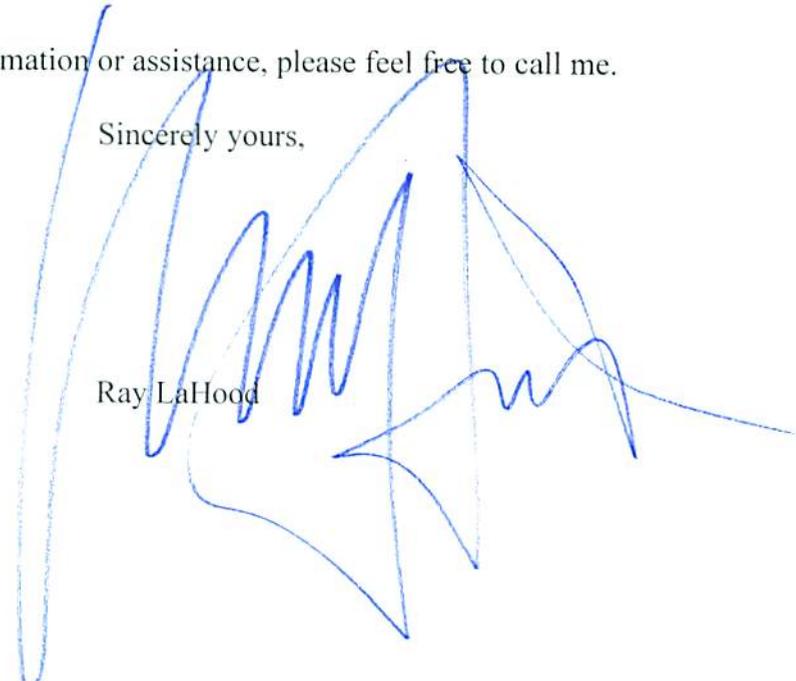
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THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

February 24, 2009

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy
and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Barton:

Section 19 (c) of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (Pub.L. 107-355) requires the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to report to Congress each year on any pipeline safety recommendations made by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) during the prior year and to provide a copy of the response for each such recommendation. This letter is submitted in fulfillment of this requirement.

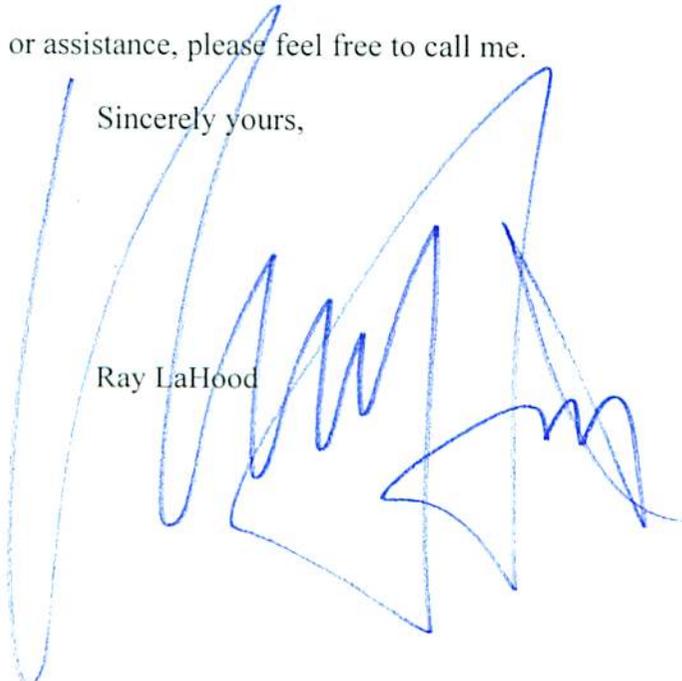
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THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

February 24, 2009

The Honorable Jay Rockefeller
Chairman
Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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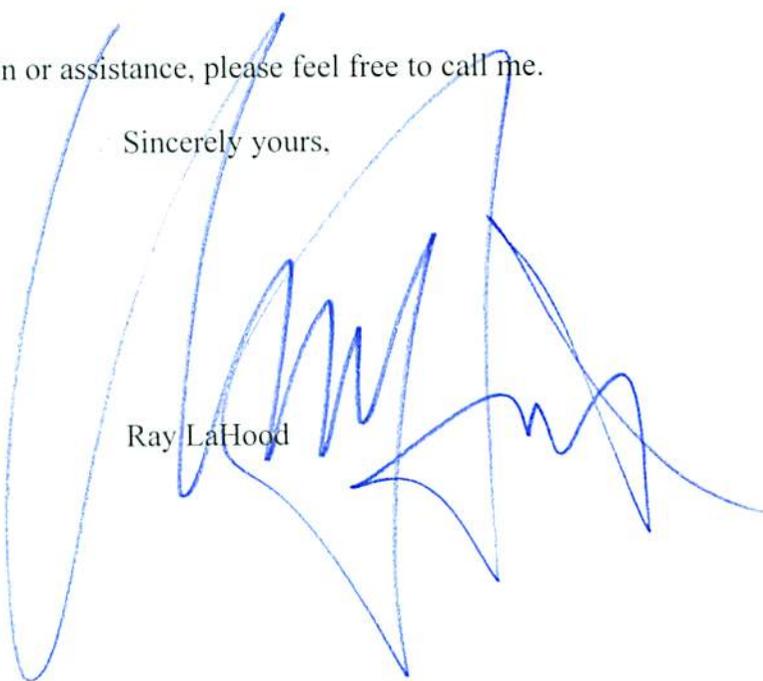
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THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

February 24, 2009

The Honorable John L. Mica
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Mica:

Section 19 (c) of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (Pub.L. 107-355) requires the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to report to Congress each year on any pipeline safety recommendations made by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) during the prior year and to provide a copy of the response for each such recommendation. This letter is submitted in fulfillment of this requirement.

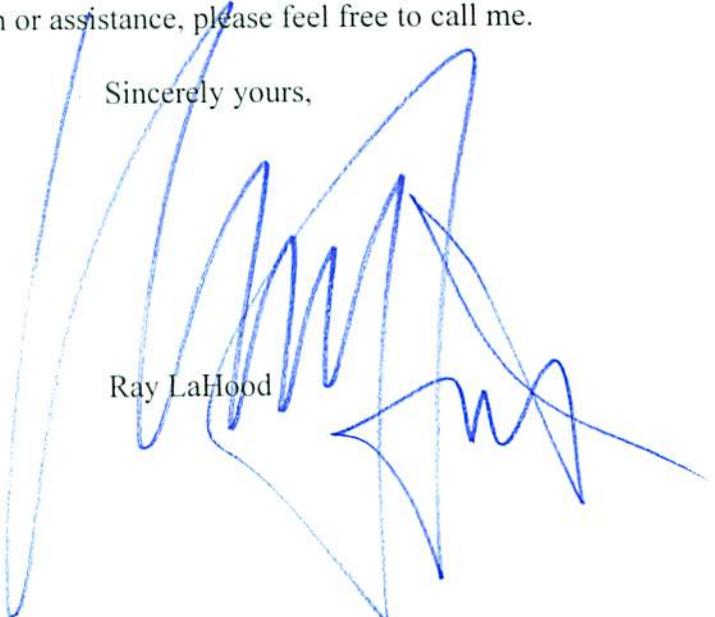
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until each of the recommendations referred to in subsection (a) has been implemented, the Secretary shall transmit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the specific actions taken to implement such recommendations.

(c) **REPORTS BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.**—The Inspector General shall periodically transmit to the committees referred to in subsection (b) a report assessing the Secretary's progress in implementing the recommendations referred to in subsection (a) and identifying options for the Secretary to consider in accelerating recommendation implementation.

SEC. 19. NTSB SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Transportation, the Administrator of Research and Special Program Administration, and the Director of the Office of Pipeline Safety shall fully comply with section 1135 of title 49, United States Code, to ensure timely responsiveness to National Transportation Safety Board recommendations about pipeline safety.

(b) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—The Secretary, Administrator, or Director, respectively, shall make a copy of each recommendation on pipeline safety and response, as described in subsections (a) and (b) of section 1135, title 49, United States Code.

(c) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—The Secretary, Administrator, or Director, respectively, shall submit to Congress by January 1 of each year a report containing each recommendation on pipeline safety made by the Board during the prior year and a copy of the response to each such recommendation.

SEC. 20. MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 60102(a) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(B) by striking “(a)(1)” and all that follows through “The Secretary of Transportation” and inserting the following:

“(a) **PURPOSE AND MINIMUM SAFETY STANDARDS.**—

“(1) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this chapter is to provide adequate protection against risks to life and property posed by pipeline transportation and pipeline facilities by improving the regulatory and enforcement authority of the Secretary of Transportation.

“(2) **MINIMUM SAFETY STANDARDS.**—The Secretary”;

(C) by moving the remainder of the text of paragraph (2) (as so redesignated), including subparagraphs (A) and (B) but excluding subparagraph (C), 2 ems to the right; and

(D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated) by inserting “**QUALIFICATIONS OF PIPELINE OPERATORS.**—” before “The qualifications”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Chapter 601 is amended—

(A) by striking the heading for section 60102 and inserting the following: