



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

January 16, 2025

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

Dear Chairman Cruz:

The Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2020 (PIPES Act of 2020; P.L. 116-260), section 114(c)(3) requires the Secretary of Transportation to submit 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 that includes a response to the results of the study conducted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), pursuant to section 114(c)(1), and recommendations contained within the report submitted by GAO pursuant to section 114(c)(2), no later than 90 days after the report is submitted. This letter report is submitted in fulfillment of this requirement.

The GAO concluded its audit work and issued its report, Gas Pipelines: Oversight of Operators' Plans to Minimize Methane Emissions, on June 3, 2024. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has reviewed and evaluated the GAO final report and concurs with the results. The GAO final report contained no recommendations to PHMSA and, therefore, PHMSA provides no further report regarding such recommendations, as required by section 114(c)(3). The GAO final report identified a number of PIPES Act of 2020 requirements PHMSA is working to fulfill. On August 16, 2024, PHMSA fulfilled the section 114(d) requirement of the PIPES Act of 2020 and transmitted a report titled, "Review of Best Available Technologies or Practices and Pipeline Facility Designs for Preventing or Minimizing Natural Gas Releases During Planned Operations and Maintenance." PHMSA continues to diligently work towards fulfilling the remaining requirements outlined in the PIPES Act of 2020.

Please let me know if you require additional information or have your staff contact Damon Hill, Deputy Director of Governmental, International, and Public Affairs, by phone at 202-366-4424 or by e-mail at [damon.hill@dot.gov](mailto:damon.hill@dot.gov).

The Honorable Maria Cantwell

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A similar letter report has been sent to the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and the Chair and Ranking Member of the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tristan H. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Tristan H. Brown  
Deputy Administrator



U.S. Department  
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1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

January 16, 2025

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Cantwell:

The Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2020 (PIPES Act of 2020; P.L. 116-260), section 114(c)(3) requires the Secretary of Transportation to submit 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 that includes a response to the results of the study conducted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), pursuant to section 114(c)(1), and recommendations contained within the report submitted by GAO pursuant to section 114(c)(2), no later than 90 days after the report is submitted. This letter report is submitted in fulfillment of this requirement.

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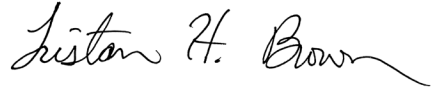
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The Honorable Maria Cantwell

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Tristan H. Brown  
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1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

January 16, 2025

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves:

The Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2020 (PIPES Act of 2020; P.L. 116-260), section 114(c)(3) requires the Secretary of Transportation to submit 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 that includes a response to the results of the study conducted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), pursuant to section 114(c)(1), and recommendations contained within the report submitted by GAO pursuant to section 114(c)(2), no later than 90 days after the report is submitted. This letter report is submitted in fulfillment of this requirement.

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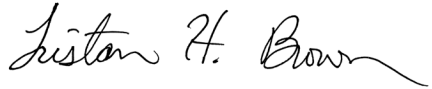
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The Honorable Sam Graves

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U.S. Department  
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1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

January 16, 2025

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Larsen:

The Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2020 (PIPES Act of 2020; P.L. 116-260), section 114(c)(3) requires the Secretary of Transportation to submit 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 that includes a response to the results of the study conducted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), pursuant to section 114(c)(1), and recommendations contained within the report submitted by GAO pursuant to section 114(c)(2), no later than 90 days after the report is submitted. This letter report is submitted in fulfillment of this requirement.

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The Honorable Rick Larsen

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Tristan H. Brown  
Deputy Administrator





U.S. Department  
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1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

January 16, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie:

The Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2020 (PIPES Act of 2020; P.L. 116-260), section 114(c)(3) requires the Secretary of Transportation to submit 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 that includes a response to the results of the study conducted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), pursuant to section 114(c)(1), and recommendations contained within the report submitted by GAO pursuant to section 114(c)(2), no later than 90 days after the report is submitted. This letter report is submitted in fulfillment of this requirement.

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The Honorable Brett Guthrie

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1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
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January 14, 2025

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
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Dear Ranking Member Pallone:

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