



# NAPSR

*National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives*

August 22, 2007

Honorable Senator Robert C. Byrd  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
311 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON DC 20510

Honorable Senator Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
113 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON DC 20510

Dear Chairman Byrd and Ranking Member Cochran:

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR). NAPSR is an organization composed of the 52 program managers who head the pipeline safety program in their respective States, as well as their engineering and technical staffs. I am writing to request your consideration of the States' needs when appropriating FY 2008 funds for grants by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA) to state pipeline safety programs authorized under USC Chapter 601 Title 49. This chapter allows PHMSA to delegate all or part of the responsibilities for pipeline safety to interested States. The responsibility for pipeline safety programs is carried out by approximately 325 qualified State engineers and inspectors. This represents more than 80 percent of the State/Federal inspection workforce. States have safety jurisdiction over approximately 78% of all pipelines in the country (2.3 million miles) that carry energy in the form of gas and liquid fuels.

States supported the provisions in the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement and Safety Act of 2006 (PIPES Act) that now authorize up to 80% Federal funding for State pipeline safety programs because the rapid expansion of Federal pipeline safety initiatives in recent years (such as operator qualification, public awareness, liquid and transmission integrity management and homeland security) and the addition of mandates under the PIPES Act, such as added distribution integrity management (the States are responsible for approximately 92.5% of the Nation's distribution lines) and damage prevention, have greatly increased the cost and resource demands of State participation. While we are grateful that the House chose to appropriate for PHMSA in FY 2008 an additional \$4 million above the previous year's funding for pipeline safety, this appropriation included \$20 million for the