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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG



April 12, 2022

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Attn: Secretary Rosemary Chiavetta
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Proposed Rulemaking for Hazardous Liquid Safety Standards, Docket No. L-2019-3010267

Secretary Chiavetta,

After carefully reviewing the Pennsylvania Utility Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, I am encouraged by the Commission's commitment to more comprehensive regulation and increased pipeline safety.

While I am far from an expert, I have been involved with this issue for a number of years, and I would like to echo Sen. Comitta's deeply insightful comments submitted to the Commission on September 2, 2021, particularly the calls for increased transparency and concerns in regard to staffing levels.

Ensuring public awareness is key, and provisions such as the proposed public availability of Failure Analysis and Root Cause Analysis reports would go a long way. Additionally, as the "affected public" is dispersed across a large area, Sen. Comitta's notion that annual meetings should be held in each county in which a pipeline is located is essential to ensuring awareness.

To elaborate on staffing level concerns, the outsized role the oil and gas industry plays in Pennsylvania makes the need for increased staffing levels obvious even without increased regulations. There is simply too much work for current staff to oversee.

Furthermore, I second Sen. Comitta's recommendation that the Commission take the necessary steps to fill the regulatory void for pipeline siting of natural gas, hazardous liquid, water, and sewer pipelines built or operated in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Kristine C. Howard

Rep. Kristine Howard
167th Legislative District