



Dec 5, 2023

Protect Communities from Dangerous Pipelines

Dear Chair Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, Subcommittee Chair Nehls and Ranking Member Payne

The PIPES Act falls far short of what is needed to protect public safety from the dangers of what could be hundreds of thousands of miles of new pipelines to transport carbon dioxide and hydrogen. Instead of real action to protect the public, you are opting for studies that will allow the industry to build out this dangerous pipeline infrastructure with safety rules that are wholly inadequate.

This bill proposes a pipeline safety gag order that will make communities less safe by allowing the federal government to hide important information from the public about impact areas for CO2 pipeline ruptures. Despite industry claims that disclosure of this information is dangerous, informing the public about potential impact areas is particularly important for CO2 pipelines, which have the potential to send suffocating plumes for miles. Local agencies must have this information to ensure proper buffer areas are in place between high consequence areas, hospitals, homes, schools and shopping centers.

This bill fails to protect communities from the dangers of blending highly explosive and leaky hydrogen into our natural gas system, opting instead for a study on what materials might safely transport hydrogen. Even if these studies were to find ways to prevent hydrogen leaks in transmission and distribution pipelines, injecting hydrogen into homes and businesses is especially dangerous because gas pipeline systems within buildings are very leak prone and are not designed to contain hydrogen. For these and other reasons, Congress should deem that there is no safe standard for hydrogen injection into existing gas systems under any circumstances.

These are two of the most egregious examples of how this bill ignores recommendations that have been made by [local and national organizations](#) that would help ensure pipeline safety. The committee must move forward a PIPES Act that does not create a pipeline safety gag order and prohibits hydrogen blending in transmission and distribution lines.

Sincerely,

Paul Blackburn
Bold Alliance

Mahmud Fitol
Great Plains Action Society

Lauren Parker
Center for Biological Diversity

Carolyn Raffensperger
Science & Environmental Health Network

Jim Walsh
Food & Water Watch