



Donald F. Santa, Jr.
President & CEO

September 29, 2011

The Honorable Ray H. LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 2090

Re: Pipeline safety meeting with INGAA

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Thank you for providing our group representing the pipeline safety task force of the board of directors of the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) with the opportunity to visit with you on September 21st to discuss our commitments to improving pipeline safety. These commitments to build confidence in pipeline safety are a direct response to the call to action that you issued at the April 18th National Pipeline Safety Forum. To summarize briefly, the high points of our discussion last week were as follows:

- INGAA's commitments are the concrete embodiment of the guiding principles on pipeline safety adopted by INGAA's board or directors. The overarching principle is the goal of achieving zero incidents – a perfect record of safety and reliability. These principles also include the board's strong commitment to safety culture as a critical dimension of INGAA's efforts to improve our industry's performance continuously.
- Many of the steps in the INGAA action plan address the same goals that form the basis for the recommendations issued by the National Transportation Safety Board following its San Bruno investigation. Still, in some cases the INGAA action plan charts a course to achieving those goals that is different from the terms of the NTSB recommendations.

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- Enactment of legislation to reauthorize the Pipeline Safety Act is critical to providing a framework for government and industry pipeline safety initiatives. Along with its counterparts in the energy pipeline industry, as well as other stakeholders, INGAA has encouraged the enactment of the consensus legislation now taking shape in the Congress. We appreciate your efforts as a champion of such legislation and encourage you to continue your outreach with Members of Congress and other stakeholders so that a responsible pipeline safety reauthorization bill can be enacted this Congress, and preferably this year.
- The development of new and improved technology will be critical to delivering on the commitments made by INGAA. It is critical that the pipeline industry work collaboratively with pipeline safety regulators in constructing a comprehensive pipeline safety research and development road map and in finding the most effective means to fund this work.

INGAA is a trade association representing approximately two-thirds of the nation's natural gas transmission pipelines and over 85 percent of interstate natural gas pipelines. There are approximately 300,000 miles of natural gas transmission pipelines in America, delivering one quarter of the nation's energy.

Mr. Secretary, the members of INGAA greatly appreciate your leadership on pipeline safety. We will be honored to have you as our featured speaker at the INGAA Stakeholders Conference on October 12th and look forward to your remarks.

Thank you again for meeting with representatives of the INGAA board of directors pipeline safety task force.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. F. Santa", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Donald F. Santa
President and CEO
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America

cc: Cynthia L. Quarterman
Timothy P. Butters