



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Robert Bentley
Governor

John R. Cooper
Transportation Director

April 13, 2011



Secretary Ray LaHood
U. S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Pipeline Safety

Dear Secretary LaHood:

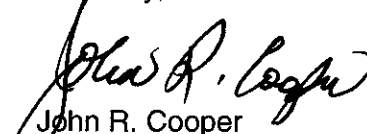
Thank you for your letter of March 28th to Governor Robert Bentley concerning pipeline safety issues.

In Alabama, the Alabama Public Service Commission's Gas Pipeline Safety section inspects and monitors gas and hazardous liquid pipeline systems. It is their responsibility to insure safe operation and compliance with the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 for all transmission within the state.

We welcome opportunities to work with other state agencies to promote safety. Further, ALDOT staff will work with local utility companies and the Public Service Commission to increase the speed and efficiency with which repair, rehabilitation, and replacement programs occur along our state transportation network. ALDOT continues to endeavor to identify and mitigate pipeline safety hazards very early in the project planning process.

Integration of land use and transportation planning as a "smart growth" strategy is an active process in Alabama. Such processes allow for early awareness and avoidance of gas or liquid pipeline hazards.

Sincerely,


John R. Cooper
Transportation Director

cc:

JRC:RJJ:RF/kh