



July 31, 2019

Senator Deb Fischer
454 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tammy Duckworth
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Fiber Optic Sensing Association writes to commend your introduction of S. 2299, the Protecting Our Infrastructure of Pipelines Enhancing Safety (PIPES) Act of 2019. We believe this legislation will continue and enhance the important work of the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration in making America's pipelines safer.

In particular, we are pleased to endorse Section 105, "Advancement of new pipeline safety technologies and approaches", and Section 106, "Pipeline safety testing enhancement study." We believe these initiatives can play a critical role in the adoption of advanced leak detection technologies and other pipeline safety innovations in the United States.

The Fiber Optic Sensing Association is a non-profit organization whose mission is to educate industry, government and the public on the benefits of fiber optic sensing. Many of our members operate in the pipeline sector, providing technology for the detection of leaks, intrusion, seismic activity and other dangerous conditions in dozens of countries around the globe. Outside the United States, thousands of miles of pipeline are protected with fiber optic sensing, and now many U.S. operators are considering this technology as a way to make their pipelines safer.

For several years, the deployment of effective leak detection technology has been an important bipartisan policy objective of Congress. Among the as yet unfulfilled mandates of the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 is the mandate for PHMSA to require hazardous liquid pipeline operators to use leak detection systems where practicable, and for the agency to establish technically, operationally, and economically feasible standards for the capability of such systems to detect leaks.

Fiber Optic Sensing Association (FOSA)

6841 Elm Street, #861; McLean, VA 22101-0843; <http://www.fiberopticsensing.org/>

We believe that creative measures in your legislation like those discussed above will help pipeline operators validate new technology and enhance PHMSA's capacity to meet its leak detection mandates.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views with you. We look forward to working with you to make the U.S. pipeline system as safe as possible.

Sincerely,

Mark Uncapher

Mark Uncapher
Executive Director
Fiber Optic Sensing Association