CARBON CAPTURE IMPACT

Carbon Capture Impact Statement for the Record

United States House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Energy, Climate, and Grid Security Subcommittee Hearing:
"America's Energy Infrastructure: Authorizing Pipeline Safety"

March 4, 2026

Introduction

Carbon Capture Impact appreciates the opportunity to submit this statement for the record for the House Energy and Commerce, Energy, Climate, and Grid Subcommittee hearing on efforts to improve safety and expand US pipeline infrastructure. Carbon management technologies, including carbon capture, removal, utilization, transport, and storage, are an enabling technology platform for the production of cleaner energy and materials. Taken together, they are essential tools in a broader federal strategy to strengthen domestic energy security, improve air quality, bolster American technology leadership, and deliver good-paying jobs that families and local communities depend on. Robust policies that ensure the safe and efficient expansion of carbon dioxide (CO_2) pipeline infrastructure nationwide are crucial to maintaining American leadership in carbon management globally, and, more broadly, promoting efficient and reliable domestic energy.

Executive Summary

A strong federal safety framework governing CO_2 pipeline construction, operation, and reporting is key to supporting the commercialization of the rapidly maturing American carbon management industry. And while CO_2 pipelines are inarguably the safest linear infrastructure systems in the nation, the existing framework requires pragmatic, targeted modernizations to reflect current technologies, evolving operational practices, and the scale of anticipated deployment. Members of both Carbon Capture Impact and its allied effort, the Carbon Capture Coalition, support modern updates to the existing safety regime, overseen by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), that reinforce the federal government's oversight of these large energy infrastructure systems while underscoring significant advancements in the technologies since the current safety regime's enactment. To that end, the Carbon Capture Coalition recently sent a letter to PHMSA Administrator Roberti, urging the agency to prioritize pragmatic updates to the nation's safety regulations for CO_2 pipelines due to the industry's rapid growth since regulations were first promulgated.

However, in recent months, the administration has placed promulgating updated safety regulations for CO_2 pipelines (49 CFR parts 190-199) on the long-term regulatory agenda. In addition to the need to modernize the existing safety regime, PHMSA's three-year authorization lapsed in 2023. Carbon Capture Impact urges Congress to prioritize the agency's reauthorization to ensure that adequate staffing and resources are provided for PHMSA's crucial pipeline safety activities.

Furthermore, as members of this Committee discuss the reauthorization of PHMSA writ large, Carbon Capture Impact supports any measures that would build upon existing regulations to ensure these transport infrastructure networks are designed, constructed and maintained at rigorous standards, delivering the highest levels of reliability and safety. This includes support for the US Senate's **PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025 (S.2975), which would reauthorize PHMSA and specifically require the agency to release updated safety standards for CO_2 pipelines within two years of enactment (Sec. 402).**

Background

The US Department of Transportation (DOT) has regulated the safety of CO_2 pipelines since Congress passed the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Act of 1979. PHMSA was established within DOT in 2004 to enforce federal pipeline safety regulations established in 2000. Among other things, these regulations prescribe multiple steps that CO_2 pipeline operators must take to ensure pipelines are operated safely, including attention to pipeline design, protection against corrosion, monitoring for leaks, and installing safeguards against overpressure. These measures have helped demonstrate the country's commitment to pipeline safety and secured American leadership in carbon management on the global stage, enabling American companies to compete in international markets that are increasingly demanding cleaner energy and products.

Furthermore, thanks to the broader available federal policy framework for carbon management technologies, which includes the regulatory framework for CO_2 pipeline construction and operations, **over $77.5 billion has already been invested in the domestic carbon management sector**. This number will continue to grow as newly announced projects progress toward final investment decision, construction, and operation. However, for these technologies to reach their full potential for emissions reduction and job creation and retention, a substantial buildout of safe and reliable CO_2 pipelines will be needed to transport large quantities of CO_2 from power plants, industrial facilities, and direct air capture facilities to points of reuse and/or permanent geologic storage. For that to occur, there must be full public and policymaker confidence in the safety of CO_2 pipelines and assurances that appropriate regulations and protocols are in place to prevent incidents of pipeline leaks and failures.

The Need for Expanded CO_2 Pipeline Infrastructure

The buildout of a robust linear infrastructure system to safely transport and store captured CO_2 in oil and gas fields and saline aquifers is an essential component of the administration's broader strategy to ensure reliable, affordable, American energy and manufacturing outputs while meeting market demand for cleaner energy and materials.

The strategic importance of access to CO_2 transport for enhanced oil recovery and storage in saline aquifers is evident in the 334 carbon management projects that have been announced across various stages of development in direct response to continued bipartisan support and expansion of the 45Q tax credit, most recently in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. It is estimated that existing US infrastructure will need to expand by 25,000 and 65,000 miles to meet project deployment demands and support a mature carbon management sector. In comparison, nearly

385,000 miles of operational pipelines currently carry petroleum, natural gas, oil, and other products across the nation.

The expansion of this infrastructure system is multifaceted and requires a comprehensive portfolio of policies to enable CO_2 transport, permanent saline geologic storage, enhanced oil recovery, and carbon utilization. Thanks to the enactment of critical policy tools such as the bipartisan Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies (USE IT) Act, Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, and most recently, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, CO_2 transport infrastructure is poised to expand to support the development of cleaner American energy, chemicals, and materials. However, without the simultaneous development of this crucial network, the carbon management industry's ability to meaningfully contribute to a robust energy and industrial sector, and remain competitive on the global market, will be negatively affected.

The Need to Modernize CO_2 Pipeline Safety Regulations

Members of Carbon Capture Impact and the Carbon Capture Coalition have long supported rigorous design, inspection, and maintenance protocols for CO_2 capture, transport, and storage infrastructure. Thanks to the regulatory framework already in place, millions of metric tons of CO_2 are safely transported and stored in this country each year. And it remains true that CO_2 pipelines have an excellent safety record, when compared to other linear infrastructure systems, and there are multiple steps that CO_2 pipeline operators must take to ensure pipelines are built and operated safely.

Still, a rare but serious pipeline failure in Satartia, Mississippi, in 2020 has increased public and policymaker concerns surrounding pipeline safety and the overall reliability of these systems. While CO_2 pipelines are operated at the highest level of safety by best-practice industry operators, Carbon Capture Impact supports the agency's continued oversight and making targeted, pragmatic updates to the existing safety standards to ensure that all industry operators maintain these high levels of safety for every pipeline, every time.

Emphasizing the importance of modernizing the nation's safety standards for CO_2 pipelines, Carbon Capture Impact supports a slate of comprehensive and targeted measures Congress and the administration should incorporate into any rule making or legislative action to ensure carbon management transport networks are designed, constructed, and maintained in a manner that delivers the highest levels of reliability and safety. These recommendations, outlined in the Carbon Capture Coalition's 2025 Federal Policy Blueprint, identify additional steps Congress and the administration can take to ensure the nation maintains its high commitment to safety, including **expanding first responder safety training for CO_2 pipeline safety incidents and requiring that project proponents more rigorously consider potential geohazard impacts on CO_2 pipelines during design, siting, construction, and maintenance.**

Reauthorizing PHMSA is the Best Way to Guarantee the Continued Safe Operation of CO_2 Pipelines

Congress now has the opportunity to enable the continued expansion and operation of these essential infrastructure systems by prioritizing the passage of a PHMSA reauthorization package and implementing targeted policy recommendations outlined in the Carbon Capture Coalition's 2025 Federal Policy Blueprint. Reauthorization serves multiple functions beyond updating the agency's strategic priorities and providing funding certainty. Reauthorization helps improve planning practices with an eye toward long-term stewardship and enhances the agency's ability to consider implementing common-sense safety recommendations. Additionally, reauthorization would bolster Congress's ability to respond to public concerns by mandating agency action. **To be clear, delaying the reauthorization of this essential agency puts pressure on limited resources and staffing and jeopardizes PHMSA's ability to implement updated safety regulations, further hampering the carbon management industry's ability to deploy nationwide.**

Carbon Capture Impact is confident that passage of a legislative vehicle that prioritizes the need for additional, targeted measures to build upon the already robust oversight of CO_2 pipelines would further align the agency's activities to support a modernized safety regime for the nation's vast pipeline system.

Conclusion

Carbon Capture Impact looks forward to working with Members of the Committee in a bipartisan manner to enact common-sense measures to build on existing CO_2 pipeline safety regulations to support the responsible expansion of these essential infrastructure systems. Congress has an important opportunity to reauthorize PHMSA's three-year charter and modernize safety oversight of the nation's CO_2 transport system, building on America's energy abundance priorities and solidifying America's leadership position in international markets that are increasingly demanding cleaner products.

Carbon Capture Impact stands ready to be a resource to Members of this Committee as you consider legislation to maintain robust federal oversight of the nation's energy transport systems. Should you have any questions about anything outlined in this statement, please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Government Affairs, Madelyn Morrison, at mmorrison@carboncaptureimpact.org.

About Us

Carbon Capture Impact (Impact) is the premier national advocacy organization to advance common-sense federal policy solutions for the nationwide deployment of carbon management technologies. An allied initiative of our 501(c)3 counterpart, the Carbon Capture Coalition (the Coalition), Impact amplifies the voices of a broad network of advocates representing nearly every facet of the carbon management industry and stakeholder community.