

**Opening Remarks for Tristan Brown
Deputy Administrator
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
Pipeline Transportation and Emerging Fuels R&D Public Meeting and Forum
Tuesday, November 30, 2021**

- Good morning. I am very excited about this week's forum and we are grateful for your participation and input. I will be brief because we want to get to the packed agenda!
- As many of you know, PHMSA's mission is to protect people and the environment by advancing the safe transportation of energy and other hazardous materials that are essential to our daily lives.
- Nearly two-thirds of the energy consumed in the U.S. moves through PHMSA-regulated pipelines, the largest most-sophisticated pipeline system in the world.
- This forum will serve as an opportunity for pipeline stakeholders to discuss research gaps and challenges in pipeline safety and emerging fuels, including hydrogen transportation—that have the potential to reduce safety risks, mitigate climate change impacts, and provide economic benefits to our nation.
- In addition to sparking what we hope is a lively exchange of ideas, we are also hopeful this forum will help inform our research and development agenda for the next two years.
- Most of you are aware that pipelines are designed to transport specific products with specific physical and chemical properties, and the market is the largest driver of demand. For many years, however, the true cost of transporting and consuming many of these fuels have not been factored into market supply and demand.

- This week's forum will help inform stakeholders of the challenges and opportunities as the market transitions to newer fuels. The forum will also help facilitate discussions and elicit public feedback on several topics related to pipeline repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of leak prone and legacy pipelines and storage systems—in order to reduce safety risks, mitigate environmental impacts, and prepare for future transport of fuels.
- Overall, PHMSA's R&D program is focused on implementing the Administration's priorities that we have mentioned but also by using transportation as an engine for equity. For example, we know that many leak-prone, legacy pipelines exist in areas with a high social vulnerability index. We hope this forum will inform how we can more quickly transition to safer transport in these areas.
- PHMSA welcomes input from all stakeholders and we are pleased to have over 450 registrants, with representatives from public interest groups, industry, academia, intergovernmental partners, and the public. We will also hear from our friends at the Canada Energy Regulator and the United Kingdom Health and Safety Executive.
- Finally, as I'm sure you've heard, on November 15th President Biden signed the \$1 trillion dollar Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act into law. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law authorizes a new grant program for the modernization of municipal and community owned, high-risk natural gas distribution pipelines. In addition, this law will facilitate DOT's development of a national strategy, roadmap, and R&D programs focused on the widescale production, processing, delivery, storage, and use of clean hydrogen.
- We have important work ahead of us to advance pipeline and environmental safety through improved leak detection, repair practices, and technologies aimed at reducing methane emissions from our Nation's pipeline infrastructure. We are fully invested in helping the Administration and our Nation meet the climate challenge, as evidenced by the funding provided by

the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. You'll be hearing much more about our efforts in the coming months.

- Thank you again for joining us and in particular, I want to extend PHMSA's appreciation to the many presenters over the next few days. We look forward to continuing to work with you on our collective goals of enhancing pipeline safety and the protection of our environment.