

**TESTIMONY OF PAUL ROBERTI**  
**NOMINEE TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS**  
**MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION**  
**BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SENATE**  
**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION**  
**JULY 16, 2025**

Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell and Members of the Committee –

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. It is a great honor to be nominated by President Trump, and I am equally grateful to Secretary Duffy for his trust and confidence in my ability to lead the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

I come to Washington to serve the nation from Rhode Island, where I grew up as the son of schoolteachers, who fostered a culture of learning, loyalty and hard work so that each of my brothers and I could build a future called the American dream.

My pathway to public service began 35 years ago, and through various positions in State and Federal government, I always relied on an inner moral compass to do the right thing, and to see that my actions and decisions reflected the interests of average, everyday citizens who expected “good government” from those who were charged with serving the public interest.

My career took me into energy and utilities. From very early on, I was amazed at the complexity of the energy systems that delivered vital services to society, powering our economy and way of life, and at the same time achieving reliability and affordability for the consumers who paid the bills.

The vast network of pipelines in our nation represents the cornerstone of our economy and our bright pathway to achieving energy independence. The energy products moving through pipelines keep us warm at night, drive manufacturing and help ensure that the electric grid never fails. The reliability and safety of these systems literally can spell the difference between life and death.

When I was a public utilities commissioner in Rhode Island and learned that some of our pipelines dated back to 1850 – installed before the Civil War when Abraham Lincoln was still a Member of Congress – and that these vintage cast iron systems ultimately resulted in preventable tragedies such as Allentown, PA and East Harlem, NY, it galvanized my drive to advance pipeline safety.

To realize the President’s vision for unleashing American energy, we must instill great confidence that our transportation systems are safe. Whether it be natural gas moving through

pipelines, crude oil over railways, lithium batteries in airplanes, or the fireworks that mark our Fourth of July celebrations, ensuring the safe movement of hazardous materials throughout our nation's transportation systems must always be PHMSA's top priority. I am honored to be considered to lead PHMSA's dedicated workforce as they strive to maintain and enhance the safe movement of hazardous materials across all modes of transportation, including pipelines.

Today, we face many threats and challenges to our pipeline infrastructure. Physical and cybersecurity threats from bad actors, whether individuals or nation states, pose a steady and growing risk to the safe and reliable operation of our pipeline systems. The best defense against these threats requires constant vigilance and close coordination with federal, state, and local government partners, as well as collaboration with industry. And if a bad incident occurs, these same defensive measures are equally critical in the context of emergency response and recovery.

Allow me to close on a positive note. New technologies, engineering advances, and innovation offer substantial opportunities to advance safety while lowering costs for the American consumer. For example, the power of advanced capabilities like artificial intelligence can be leveraged for obtaining higher quality risk assessments to evaluate the integrity of pipeline systems and harnessed towards the development of better technologies for containing hazardous materials. If confirmed as Administrator, I not only commit to being a fair and effective regulator, but also will seek opportunities for unleashing American ingenuity to advance safety and bring us closer to the goal of zero incidents.

Thank you, Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell. I look forward to answering the Committee's questions.

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