

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

November 1, 2021

The Honorable David Pekoske  
Administrator  
Transportation Security Administration  
Department of Homeland Security  
6595 Springfield Center Dr.  
Springfield, VA 22150

Dear Administrator Pekoske:

We are writing to express concern with recent statements by some activists calling for physical attacks on energy infrastructure. We encourage the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to work closely with critical infrastructure operators to detect and deter potential threats to public safety, the environment, and energy reliability.

Recently, the New Yorker Radio Hour interviewed the author of a book titled “How to Blow Up a Pipeline,” during which the author encouraged “tactics of sabotage” and “property destruction,” including “blowing up a pipeline that’s under construction” in “spectacular fashion.” The author argues that these tactics are necessary to achieve certain energy and climate goals. Unfortunately, the media attention about this book has generally failed to overtly decry the book’s calls for criminal action. Needless to say, sabotaging pipelines during construction or operation can be deadly for communities and workers and disastrous for the environment.

Unfortunately, amplified calls for extreme action have created disturbing real-world consequences. Last December, activists sabotaged natural gas systems in Aspen, Colorado, putting thousands of lives at risk by leaving families without heat or hot water during freezing temperatures. In June of this year, protesters forcefully entered a pipeline pump station under construction in Minnesota, trapping workers and damaging equipment—including destroying environmental safeguards. Despite claims that these actions are seeking to protect the environment, damaging pipeline infrastructure always puts people and the environment at risk.

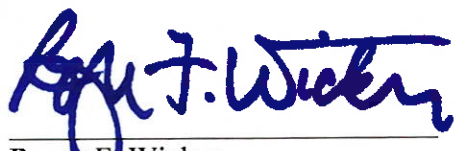
TSA reported a noticeable increase in pipeline security incidents in February 2021. As the lead federal agency overseeing pipeline security, TSA is responsible for engaging with pipeline operators to detect and deter both physical and cyber threats. TSA inspectors conduct physical security reviews of critical pipeline facilities and engage pipeline operators in threat intelligence sharing. Based on TSA’s pipeline security work, we request your prompt response to the following:

1. What are TSA’s capabilities for detecting and deterring physical threats to pipeline systems, in coordination with pipeline operators?

2. What are the top pipeline physical security threats and trends that TSA is currently monitoring? How has TSA disseminated timely, actionable threat intelligence on physical security threats to pipeline operators?
3. Are there actions that Congress can take to enhance TSA's capabilities for detecting and deterring physical threats to pipeline systems?
4. A classified briefing for the Committee from TSA on its threat assessment of critical pipeline infrastructure.
5. Assurances that TSA is engaged in regular inter-agency information sharing on potential threats.

We look forward to your response and to continuing to work with you to enhance the security of pipeline infrastructure.

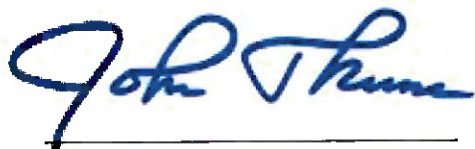
Sincerely,



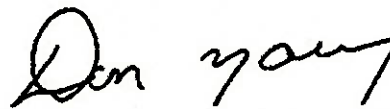
Roger F. Wicker  
Ranking Member



Sam Graves  
Ranking Member



John Thune  
US Senator



Don Young  
Member of Congress



Ted Cruz  
US Senator



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford  
Member of Congress



Jerry Moran  
US Senator



Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



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Ron Johnson  
US Senator



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Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress



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Todd Young  
US Senator



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Thomas Massie  
Member of Congress



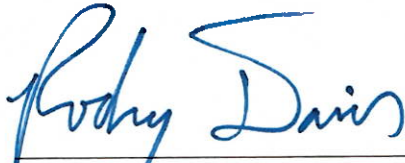
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Cynthia M. Lummis  
US Senator



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Scott Perry  
Member of Congress




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Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress



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John Katko  
Member of Congress



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Brian Babin  
Member of Congress



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Garret Graves  
Member of Congress



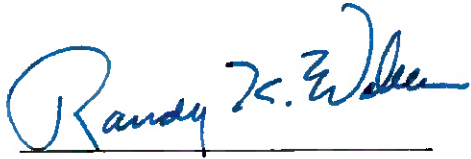
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David Rouzer  
Member of Congress

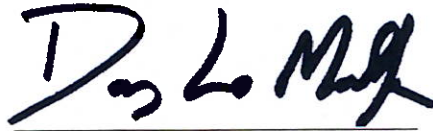


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Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



Randy Weber  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



Brian Mast  
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher  
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Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



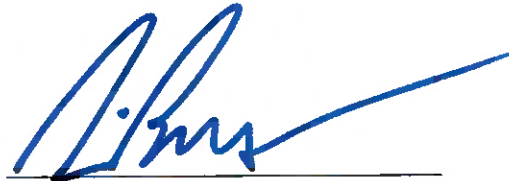
Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon  
Member of Congress



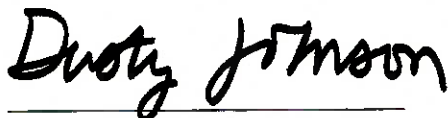
Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



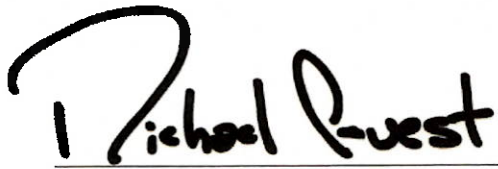
Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson  
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Jefferson Van Drew  
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Michael Guest  
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Troy Nehls  
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Nancy Mace  
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