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## Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety

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March 1, 2011

Greetings:

I am delighted to be writing this letter to you on behalf of the Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety. This time last year, I was not sure if the Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety would be allowed to continue to exist. The state's review of boards and commissions placed our work squarely in the limelight. I am proud that our work stood up to that test.

The tragic natural gas pipeline rupture in California this year once again illustrates that pipeline safety requires constant vigilance. The regular interaction between our voting citizen committee members and our non-voting pipeline industry members keeps issues related to pipeline operations and safety alive and current in the public's eye. It is the committee's mission to be your advisor on pipeline safety.

While the enclosed brochure summarizes the committee's activities for 2008 and 2009, please know that we have continued to make progress in 2010 as well. Of particular note is that the committee has been working closely with the Association of Washington Cities, the Washington State Association of Counties, the Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington and many local governments in educating local planners and elected officials regarding their policy options to ensure that development near pipelines can be performed safely and in a way to minimize the risks and outcome of a pipeline accident. The loss of life and property damage in the San Bruno California incident is an example of where land use development around pipelines resulted in tragic consequences in a pipeline rupture.

We also continue our work in bringing stakeholders together around ways to reduce damage resulting from earth movement and digging.

I would be delighted to talk with you more about the committee's past, current and future activities. It's by keeping you and other policymakers informed that we can ensure an energy supply system in Washington that supports our economy and ensures a safe and protected environment.

Sincerely,



Ron Schmitt, Chairman  
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