

Resolution on Congressional Appropriations for Pipeline Safety

WHEREAS, Since the Pipeline Safety Act was signed into law in 1968, States have been very active in assisting the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary to carry out the nation's pipeline safety program, State pipeline safety personnel represent more than 80 % of the State/federal inspection workforce and State inspectors are the "first line of defense" at the community level to promote pipeline safety, underground utility damage prevention, and public education and awareness regarding pipelines; *and*

WHEREAS, States have direct safety jurisdiction over 96% of regulated intrastate gas and 32% hazardous liquid systems and carbon dioxide facilities in the United States, and States are responsible for pipeline safety covering over 92% of 1.9 million miles of gas distribution piping in the nation, 15% of 320,000 miles of gas transmission and 33% of 160,000 miles of hazardous liquid pipelines; *and*

WHEREAS, Adequate funding is necessary to enable the States to conduct the required inspections of the existing pipeline facilities, new pipeline construction projects, and to encourage compliance with current and pending pipeline safety regulations; *and*

WHEREAS, Added programs mandated by the Accountable Pipeline Safety and Partnership Act of 1996 and the two pipeline safety reauthorizations that followed include, but are not limited to, operator qualification requirements, gas transmission and liquids pipeline integrity, public awareness communications, excess flow valve installation, pipeline control room management and distribution integrity management; *and*

WHEREAS, As a result of the shortfall in past Congressional appropriations, the federal matching grants to States have not been commensurate with the growth in pipeline safety program expenditures covered by State funds to carry out the above mandates; *and*

WHEREAS, The Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement and Safety Act of 2006 (PIPES Act) authorized PHMSA to reimburse a State up to 80 % of the cost of the personnel, equipment, and activities reasonably required to carry out pipeline safety activities in that State; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened in its 2008 Winter Meetings in Washington, D.C., urges Congressional appropriations bodies to adjust the Fiscal Year 2009 appropriations to DOT for State pipeline safety grants so that States are given the opportunity to recover at least 80% of the costs of the congressionally mandated expanded gas safety programs.

Sponsored by the Committee on Gas

Adopted by the Board of Directors February 20, 2008