

August 6, 2020

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone, Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Walden, and Ranking Member Graves:

The National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) represents construction contractors, manufacturers, and distributors who build and maintain a wide range of underground facilities and transportation infrastructure. Member companies provide the manpower and equipment needed to build, repair, and maintain the infrastructure needed for water and wastewater infrastructure, gas distribution, broadband, electric and as well as the nation's surface transportation system.

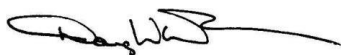
Protecting underground assets during excavation projects is critical. NUCA members work tirelessly to perform superior work while providing a safe and effective work environment, and damage prevention is and remains a fundamental part of that. But damage prevention is a two-way street, and when either the contractor or facility operator fails to meet their responsibilities, the process is compromised. Further, when state enforcement authorities fail to fully enforce state damage prevention law, inadequate compliance is unlikely to improve.

Congress has recognized the importance of damage prevention by addressing the issue in the last four pipeline safety reauthorization measures over the last 20 years. As the debate over the latest pipeline safety reauthorization measure continues, NUCA encourages you to support language that would strengthen enforcement of state damage prevention law through the federal certification process of state pipeline safety programs.

PHMSA is limited under current law when dealing with a State that fails to meet its certification requirements, and NUCA supports proposed language that would adjust the pipeline safety regulations through additional provisions related to reporting and monitoring requirements as part of a State's certification.

We thank you for your consideration.

Regards,



Doug Carlson
Chief Executive Officer