



PMAA News From Capitol Hill (NFCH)

December 10, 2015

NFCH-15-15

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE PASSES THE SAFE PIPES ACT WITH PMAA PLACARDING SECTION

Yesterday, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation unanimously passed a bipartisan bill known as the "SAFE PIPES Act", marking a significant victory for PMAA and its members. The bill seeks to improve the safety of the nation's oil and natural gas pipelines and overhaul procedures at the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

Included in the bill is language that was initially requested by PMAA. Section 4 of the bill is language that rescinds a recent interpretative guidance on placarding on cargo tank trucks. The language would force PHMSA to revert back to placarding to the lowest flash point for both split loads and alternating straight loads of diesel fuel and gasoline. This is a cost saving provision for marketers because they can ship diesel fuel, gasoline and heating fuel in different compartments of the same cargo tank vehicle under a gasoline placard, as well as ship straight loads of gasoline or diesel under the gasoline placard instead of affixing or switching multiple product placards. The provision can also benefit emergency responders because it reduces the number of placards on the cargo tank which makes identifying the appropriate response in an emergency simple and reliable.

PMAA has worked with the Department of Transportation (DOT) since the interpretative guidance was released in June, which required different placarding for straight loads of gasoline and diesel.

Members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee have been reaching out to the DOT since October regarding this issue. Since then, PMAA worked closely with the staff of Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE) to ensure the language would be added in the "SAFE PIPES Act" and that it would receive support from other committee members.