



Before the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Public Hearing on the Proposed Bayou Bridge Pipeline
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Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to provide my input on the Bayou Bridge Pipeline. Over the course of my entire adult life, I've served our country and worked tirelessly to promote safety and to protect others. I am a retired Naval Officer and Naval Aviator, and tonight I'm here to speak in support of this project.

We've listened to many speakers this evening, and obviously, passion runs high. I am pleased to see so many supporting Bayou Bridge, an important infrastructure project for Louisianans. The benefits of this line, however, are not limited to this State. Important infrastructure projects like this one help bind us all together by enabling safety, and promoting efficiency, not to mention stimulating the environment.

So from my perspective, commenters supporting the project have spoken the truth, despite a little bit of heckling from the rear of the room. Let me make this point which is uncontroverted in science and fact. Pipelines are in fact the safest method for transporting large quantities of energy supplies. They're not only safer, they're more efficient, and they impact the environment less than any other transportation option.

Several people have spoken about the need to move beyond fossil fuels. And I agree. Yet wishing for something to be true doesn't make it so. We will continue to be dependent on fossil fuels for the next generation. That's not my statistic, that's the reality reflected by institutions including the United Nations, the European Union, The International Energy Agency as well as our own government's Energy Information Administration, the EIA.

So back to pipelines. If we are going to be realistic about fossil fuels, then it is paramount that these supplies be transported as safely as possible. Opposition to new pipeline infrastructure, based on specific concerns, needs to be addressed and taken into account. These actions

are part of the process and I urge you to listen and weigh what is being said and submitted. By so doing, Bayou Bridge will be the best project possible when it is built.

But let's dispense with the rhetoric and bravado, opposing brand new, state-of-the-art pipelines in the name of the environment doesn't protect the environment. No it does not, but I can tell you what it does do, it makes energy transportation less secure, and that undermines the environment.

I learned a long time ago that if the facts aren't on your side, then argue emotion, and there's been plenty of that tonight.

How can I say this? Because I am the former head of energy transportation safety for the country. As the former Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, I was the person responsible for overseeing the country's safety & environmental enforcement programs for the transportation of all hazardous materials: air, land, sea, rail, and yes, pipeline.

As one of the nation's foremost experts on the transportation of hazardous materials, I can attest to the fact that underground pipelines are the safest means of transporting energy resources – safer than highway, rail, or waterborne modes of transport. In fact, our existing network of more than 2.6 million miles of pipeline operates across the country efficiently and without incident, successfully delivering two-thirds of all energy supplies we consume each and every day.

Pipelines currently possess a 99.999952% safety rating, the best in all of transportation. We shouldn't rest on those laurels, however, and more can always be done. Supporting safety however does not mean impeding the mobility of goods and people. Objecting to every single

infrastructure project designed to improve our way of life is not productive, and it is counter to our very ideals as a nation.

I am pleased to tell you something many of us already know. This ecosystem of infrastructure is overseen by a number of federal and state regulators, who serve the public well each and every day. Our energy transportation laws and regulations are robust and all of us should sleep well at night knowing that operators and government are working with each other to ensure our safety. Government agencies like the one I used to oversee are competent and effective. PHMSA's inspectors, investigators, and auditors are charged to ensure companies comply with the regulations. PHMSA is also innovative, always looking for ways to make energy transportation even safer.

The Bayou Bridge Pipeline will transport as many as 480,000 barrels per day of oil and hydrocarbon products from Lake Charles to St. James. This project will rank among the safest pipeline projects thanks to the thorough planning undertaken by company officials, including state-of-the-art construction techniques, operation monitoring, and extra precautions for construction on agricultural properties and wetland environments.

The company is clearly dedicated not only to meeting regulatory requirements, but also to exceeding them. This project leverages industry-leading practices during both construction and operation and will use advanced technology to monitor in real-time the health and safety of the line. I am particularly pleased the company is incorporating into the line remote shutoff valves which allow for segments of this line to be quickly shutdown and isolated. Leak detection techniques are going to help add to a margin of safety. We should also keep in mind that the pipe itself will be very strong and constructed with a huge safety factor of 22%. That means the pipeline will always be operated at no more than 78% of its maximum capable



pressure. Where horizontal directional drilling is utilized this safety factor will be even higher.

Even before this line is placed into operation it will be vigorously tested and methodically inspected. These are just a few of the ways in which the Bayou Bridge Pipeline will leverage technological advances to make this pipeline safer than ever.

I recognize how deeply Louisiana residents value their natural resources such as the Atchafalaya Basin. And community members should rest assured that the Bayou Bridge Pipeline has taken above-and-beyond steps to ensure that these landscapes will be protected. As much as 88% of the project will be follow pre-existing infrastructure easements, requiring little construction in “greenspace” areas.

I’m confident that, through projects like the Bayou Bridge Pipeline, midstream infrastructure development can be accomplished responsibly and with minimal impacts to property owners or the environment. For these reasons, I encourage the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Army Corps of engineers to approve this project. Thank you for your time and consideration.