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AOPL TESTIFIES TO VALUE AND SAFETY OF PIPELINES

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, members of a U.S. House of Representatives committee with oversight of pipelines heard testimony on the value and safety of pipelines.

“Not only are pipelines the safest mode of transportation, they are getting safer. Since 1999, the number of releases from liquids pipelines is down 50 percent,” testified Andy Black, President and CEO of the Association of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL).

Black of AOPL, Jack Gerard of the American Petroleum Institute and other energy transportation and infrastructure representatives testified before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials. The subcommittee’s hearing was entitled “How Changing Energy Markets Will Affect U.S. Transportation.”

Black cited just-released industry-wide pipeline safety statistics found in the new report *API-AOPL 2015 Annual Liquids Pipeline Safety Performance Report & Strategic Plan*. The report brings together the most up-to-date pipeline safety statistics and lays out the industry-wide initiatives pipeline operators will undertake in 2015 to improve pipeline safety. Findings include:

- 99.999% of crude oil and petroleum product barrels delivered by pipeline arrive at their destination safely
- Releases along pipeline rights of way are down 50% since 1999
- Pipeline operators spent more than \$2.1 billion in 2013 evaluating, inspecting and performing maintenance on their pipelines
- Corrosion caused pipeline incidents are down 76% since 1999
- Pipeline operators delivered 14.9 billion barrels of crude oil and petroleum products in 2013

Pipeline operators have four safety improvement goals in their 2015 strategic plan including: 1) improving inspection technology capabilities, 2) enhancing safety threat identification and response, 3) expanding safety culture and management practices, and 4) boosting response capabilities. The 2015 performance report and strategic plan is part of the *Pipeline Safety Excellence*[™]. More information on the initiative and report can be found at: <http://www.aopl.org/safety/safety-excellence-program/>.

At the hearing, Black also spoke to the role pipelines are playing delivering the benefits of North America’s energy production renaissance to U.S. consumers and workers. America pipelines are delivering an additional 1.35 billion barrels of crude oil per year compared to 5 years ago, with 10,000 miles of pipeline added in the last 4 years.

Liquids pipelines operated by members of AOPL and API deliver crude oil, refined products such as gasoline and diesel, and natural gas liquids such as propane and ethane. Americans benefit when pipelines deliver the gasoline they need to drive their cars and trucks, the propane used for rural heating, crop drying and livestock, and the raw materials workers use for good-paying manufacturing jobs.

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