

1808 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006



Contact: John Stody  
202-292-4509  
[jstody@aopl.org](mailto:jstody@aopl.org)  
<http://www.aopl.org>

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## Pipeline Operators Urge Activists to End Dangerous Protests

*WASHINGTON, DC* – The Association of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL) today urged activists to end their forms of dangerous protest that threaten their own safety, the public's safety and the environment. The call came after protesters broke into pipeline facilities near the U.S. – Canada border and attempted to manually close pipeline valves.

"These are industrial facilities that operate under high pressure and we don't want anyone to get hurt or cause a release into the environment," said Andrew Black, AOPL President and CEO.

Pipeline operators place shut-off valves periodically along the length of a pipeline to help control the flow of product and isolate certain segments of pipe if needed. When operated correctly by trained engineers, pipelines are the safest way to transport the large volumes crude oil and petroleum products American consumers need.

However, pipelines operate under as much as 1,000 pounds of pressure per square inch. Incorrectly closing a valve in the middle of a pipeline without simultaneous control of pumps before and after the valves could cause a pressure surge, rupture the pipeline and cause a spill impacting the public and environment. An industry review of pipeline valve incidents found nine different examples of pressure surge releases with one resulting in nearly 4,000 barrels of crude oil spilled. For these reasons, pipeline facilities behind lock and key are protected for the safety of the public. Vandalizing, attempting to operate or otherwise tampering with pipeline equipment is dangerous and risks hurting those involved, the public or environment.

Pipeline operators recognize there are disagreements about how best to deliver the energy American consumers need. Voicing those views is a basic American right. However, taking protest actions that could hurt themselves or the public or damage private property or the environment is not the best way to express those views.

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