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Senate PHMSA Bill Highlights Critical Infrastructure Issues

Washington, D.C. Today Senators Fischer, Booker, Daines, and Peters introduced a four-year plan to re-authorize the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), the regulatory body overseeing close to 1 million daily shipments of hazardous materials throughout the United States. This bipartisan legislation demonstrates a shared view that ensuring the safety of hazardous materials transport in the U.S. remains a top priority in the Senate.

The Alliance for Innovation and Infrastructure (Aii) commends the Senators for drafting a comprehensive bill that strikes a good balance between prioritizing and increasing oversight of overdue regulations, while also focusing on a limited amount of new mandates for addressing critical and timely issues.

The Alliance is especially supportive of the Committee's focus on improving excavation safety practices to avoid damaging underground facilities, including pipelines, during excavation projects. The study mandated by this bill will examine how the use of GPS and other digital mapping technologies can help improve excavation practices to minimize the number of incidents of future excavation projects.

In addition, the bill's efforts to ensure the Administrative body is fully staffed by providing "Direct Hire" authority and focusing on filling critical hiring needs immediately is an important step towards ensuring PHMSA can carry out its safety mission effectively.

The Alliance for Innovation and Infrastructure (Aii) is a U.S.-based nonprofit committed to recognizing the nation's need for improved infrastructure and highlighting innovative and effective strategies to address these issues related to energy, transportation, and technology advancements.

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