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Good morning Chairman Metcalf, Chairman Vitali and Members of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. Thank you for welcoming me here today. I appreciate the opportunity to discuss these issues with you on behalf of Pennsylvania's Labor Trades men and women.

LIUNA has always been a strong and outspoken advocate for greater energy infrastructure investment, and our members build energy systems from natural gas extraction to solar panels. LIUNA members assist in the construction and maintenance of power plants and substations, digging trenches for lines and backfilling, road repair after line installation, and of course, infrastructure such as oil and gas pipelines.

The U.S. will continue to be dependent on a variety of energy resources, including oil and natural gas, and accordingly, LIUNA supports an "all-of-the-above" energy policy. Oil and natural gas, which supply 62 percent of our energy today, will provide much of the energy we need in the decades to come and are important components of the "all-of-the-above" approach. Becoming less reliant on oil from hostile nations by developing North America's energy resources improves our economy, creates jobs, and strengthens our national security.

And a balanced and comprehensive energy policy must include the expansion of our nation's pipeline infrastructure.

At LIUNA, we are training the next generation of energy infrastructure workers to ensure that these projects are both safe and reliable. LIUNA and our partner employers have, for decades, met the workforce development needs of the construction industry through a self-funded training infrastructure and Registered Apprenticeship programs. LIUNA's labor-management training programs invest millions of private-sector dollars annually into this proven workforce development system.

And state-of-the-art training is at no charge and accessible to participating contractors, members, apprentices and pre-apprentices across the U.S. and Canada through over 70 affiliated training centers. Continual, life-long career training opportunities allows workers to upgrade employability skills, move to leadership positions, update safety knowledge, and increase productivity all with the goal of expanding career paths, living wages, and contractor competitiveness.

Finally, we are training Pennsylvania residents to work on pipeline and other infrastructure projects right here at home. LIUNA has hiring halls and training centers in hundreds of U.S. cities and has been helping local workers and underserved communities start careers in construction for 116 years. As cities and localities have increasingly struggled with urban area unemployment despite economic growth and expanded job opportunities, LIUNA has ramped

up efforts to train local workers and joined with social justice allies to push for progressive legislation to create good jobs for local residents here and in cities around the country.

Our training programs help to ensure that infrastructure projects like vital oil and natural gas pipelines are constructed beyond the very safest standards. And as we live and raise families in our communities here in Pennsylvania, we want to ensure that these projects are safe, that these projects protect our environment, and that these projects provide good paying, family sustaining jobs for generations.

Growth in the energy industry can create steady, reliable careers for millions of men and women in our country and in this state. More specifically, pipeline work is a lifeline for good union jobs with family-supporting pay resulting in millions of dollars being reinvested back into the community and local businesses. We work on these projects; we have seen first-hand the economic benefits, and we understand the consideration for safety that is built into them.

Since 2010 Pipelines have resulted in over 25 Million man-hours for our members and for the pipeline contractors we represent. Depending on the size of the line, construction can be a couple months up to a year. Many say that these jobs are temporary, all construction jobs are all temporary, but it's a string of these temporary construction jobs that helps support our members and their families with good sustaining wages.

To imply that it is either the environment or natural gas pipelines is wrong on many levels. With the technological and engineering advances, training and quality materials used today, we are fortunate. We do not have to make a choice between providing safe, clean, affordable and locally produced energy while protecting the environment. We can do both.

Again, thank you for inviting me to discuss these issues with you today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.