

September 12, 2025

The Honorable Daniel Webster
Chairman, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Webster:

As public natural gas utilities and impacted stakeholders in Florida's 11th Congressional District, we write to express our strong support for an extension of the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization (NGDISM) grant program, administered by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). For the past five years, this critical program has enabled communities to modernize natural gas infrastructure and, in turn, improve public safety, strengthen local economies, and help maintain access to affordable energy. In Florida, there are 30 public gas systems, and to date, over \$38 million in NGDISM funding has supported shovel-ready pipeline replacement and modernization projects across the state, including \$3.2 million in your district.

The NGDISM program has been instrumental in enabling public gas systems to replace aging infrastructure, retire legacy pipe materials prone to leakage, such as cast iron, and deploy new technologies that improve system reliability. These investments enhance safety for individuals and families across our state and for the utility employees who diligently deliver the energy that fuels our economies. This funding enables utilities to make critical upgrades that don't significantly impact ratepayers. For these systems, the NGDISM grant program provides a lifeline to address safety needs and modernize critical local infrastructure.

Beyond the clear safety benefits, the program supports local job creation and attracts private-sector investment. Dollars delivered through the NGDISM program stay in the community and support construction jobs, extend the useful life of public assets, and reduce long-term operational costs. This kind of investment in core utility infrastructure helps communities grow and compete economically while keeping energy rates affordable for working families and small businesses.

We respectfully urge you to support an extension of the NGDISM grant program past its current sunset in 2026. Continued federal investment in this program will allow our communities to build on the progress already made, ensure safer infrastructure for the future, and protect access to affordable energy for the customers we serve. Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to the communities we represent.

Sincerely,



Dale Calhoun
Executive Director
Florida Natural Gas Association



Corey Goepfert
Director
City of Leesburg Natural Gas Dept.



Brent E. Haywood
CEO and General Manager
Lake Apopka Natural Gas District