

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

August 18, 2025

Acting Administrator Ben Kochman
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Kochman,

We write to express our grave concern regarding the Twin Oaks Pipeline and the irreversible harm it poses to the health and safety of our community. For nearly seven months, the residents of Upper Makefield Township have endured the fallout from the catastrophic Sunoco pipeline leak that led to widespread contamination of private wells with jet fuel; disrupted daily life; and raised urgent questions about pipeline integrity, oversight, and transparency.

On August 5, 2025, Energy Transfer, the operator of the Twin Oaks Pipeline, formally notified the Township for the first time that multiple anomalies requiring excavation had been identified within Upper Makefield. This critical admission came only after Township geologist David Fennimore directly questioned Energy Transfer about the location of anomalies referenced during a July 31 meeting. At that time, Energy Transfer had explicitly denied the existence of any anomalies in the Township.

Only when under scrutiny did the company reverse its position and admit the existence of multiple dig “sites” within Upper Makefield Township. The following day, on August 6, PHMSA confirmed that twelve excavation sites are planned east of the Bucks Pump Station, including several within the Township limits. These revelations stand in direct contradiction to Energy Transfer’s repeated public statements over several months denying the existence of any anomalies in this segment of the pipeline. As articulated by the Township, such statements were, at best, misleading and, at worst, issued with reckless disregard for public safety.

Since these discoveries, PHMSA has confirmed inspectors were deployed to the site to conduct interviews and oversee additional testing. Yet, despite this involvement, PHMSA has refused to share any substantive findings with our offices. The agency has only indicated that there is “no indication of a pipeline-related issue” and declined to release further information, citing a consent agreement. This refusal to disclose critical safety information amid a public health emergency is unacceptable. It undermines public confidence, obstructs accountability, and impedes our ability to protect the people we are sworn to serve.

Our constituents have endured nearly seven months of uncertainty, questioning whether the water they drink, the air they breathe, and the ground beneath their homes are safe. They deserve the truth, not evasions. They deserve accountability, not silence. And they deserve immediate action to safeguard their community.

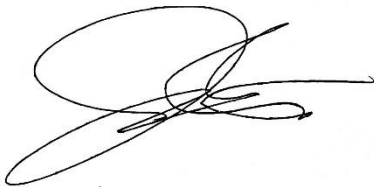
We believe that to rebuild trust with our constituents, PHMSA should consider, among other things:

1. Immediately releasing all information related to the most recent inline inspection of the Twin Oaks Pipeline;
2. Disclosing the full report and findings from the PHMSA inspector's visit; and
3. Shutting down the Twin Oaks Pipeline until the full investigation is complete, the safety of the line can be unequivocally verified, and accountability can be ensured

Our community demands and deserves answers. The continued operation of a pipeline with known and now-admitted anomalies, in the midst of a contamination crisis, is indefensible. We cannot and must not allow the pipeline to remain operational until all investigations are completed and the findings clearly demonstrate that the pipeline poses no further risk to public safety. Anything less is a failure to the people we represent.

We appreciate your full and fair consideration of this urgent matter and await your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Fetterman', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

John Fetterman
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brian Fitzpatrick', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress