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## **Statement of The Pipeline Safety Trust on Senate Commerce Committee Approval of S. 275**

Rick Kessler, Vice President of the board of The Pipeline Safety Trust, the nation's only nonprofit focused on the safety of our nation's system of pipeline transportation, offered support for the Senate Commerce Committee's reporting of S. 275, legislation by Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ) to reauthorize the nation's pipeline safety program.

"This is a welcome first step in reauthorizing and enhancing the federal pipeline safety law," said Kessler. "We commend the committee's bipartisan step forward on this important issue and thank Chairman Lautenberg, Chairman Rockefeller, Ranking Member Hutchison, Senator Boxer and Senator Udall, in particular, for their assistance. We also appreciate Senator Thune for modifying his amendment to address a number of concerns raised by the environmental community."

Continued Kessler: "2010 was one of the deadliest years for our nation's pipeline system in recent memory, with 22 people killed in pipeline-related incidents; there were also many more injured and severe damage to private property and the environment. This year has already seen more loss of life in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Clearly, it's time for strong action and reform.

"While the committee-reported legislation would make some improvements in federal law, we look forward to working with senators on both sides of the aisle to include changes to law that will make a real difference in saving lives and protecting our environment such as increased and enhanced inspections; closing loopholes that allow some pipelines to be under-regulated or unregulated; mandates installation of state-of-the-art leak detection systems and that operators report leaks within one hour of discovery; and makes available to US taxpayers, landowners and emergency responders more information about individual pipelines and their safety, both past and present."

### **About the Pipeline Safety Trust:**

The Pipeline Safety Trust promotes fuel transportation safety through education and advocacy, by increasing access to information, and by building partnerships with residents, safety advocates, government, and industry, that result in safer communities and a healthier environment. You can find more about the Trust and pipeline safety on the Trust's website at: [www.pstrust.org](http://www.pstrust.org).