

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 25, 2013

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC
WORKS
INDIAN AFFAIRS
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ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Cynthia L. Quarterman, Administrator
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
East Building, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20590-9898

Dear Administrator Quarterman,

I am writing this letter to request that the Department of Transportation expedite action related to a rulemaking petition that was initially filed with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) more than five years ago. On January 9, 2013, PHMSA granted the petition for rulemaking to allow the use of Polyamide 12 ("PA12" or "Nylon 12") for high pressure natural gas distribution systems. A public docket for the petition has been established at www.regulations.gov in Docket No. PHMSA-2010-0009. The Petitioner, Evonik DeGussa, has a manufacturing plant in my state.

According to the Petitioner, PA12 is a suitable and safe material for high pressure gas distribution piping applications. The Petitioner claims PA12 has been subject to extensive safety testing and conforms to federally-mandated performance requirements. Should PA12 be approved by PHMSA, the nation's gas transportation industry will be able to utilize next-generation materials in the nation's pipeline system that will translate into job growth at U.S.-based manufacturing facilities.

In the more than five years since filing its initial rulemaking petition, I understand that the Petitioner has met with PHMSA on several occasions and provided information in response to PHMSA's requests. It is also my understanding that PHMSA has recently informed the Petitioner that it has submitted all information necessary to evaluate its request. I respectfully request that the rulemaking petition be promptly evaluated and that a clear timetable for action be provided.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Deb Fischer
United States Senator

cc: John D. Porcari, Deputy Secretary
Dana G. Gresham, Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs