In 1999, a gasoline pipeline exploded in Bellingham killing three young men and destroying an entire salmon stream. In the aftermath of this deadly tragedy, Washington State created two organizations; the governor-appointed Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety (CCOPS), that advises state and federal agencies and officials on matters relating to hazardous liquid and gas pipeline safety, and the national Pipeline Safety Trust (PST), created by the victims' families and community funded by the criminal penalties that resulted from the explosion.

In 2016 the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), the state agency charged with pipeline safety, asked CCOPS, with the assistance of the PST, to draft a report that would review the safety of the pipelines in Washington state and make recommendations for what could be changed to make our state's pipelines even safer. As part of this review, in coordination with the WUTC and the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), CCOPS administered three stakeholder surveys from elected officials, emergency responders, and representatives from pipeline companies operating in Washington.

The attached *2018 Pipeline Safety in Washington State* is attached.

This report provides recommendations that we feel are very important to the scope of work that is being done by the WUTC, CCOPS, and other pertinent groups whether local, regional, or national. One important recommendation that resulted from this report was that “the WUTC and CCOPS should work with the Washington State Legislature to amend Revised Code of Washington and/or the Washington State Department of Commerce to amend the Washington Administrative Code to require cities annexing property to show pipeline easements on maps of the areas proposed for annexation.”

In providing this report it is our hope that you consider pipeline safety vital to the people of Washington state and that all effective legislation involving pipeline safety continue to be recognized, acted upon, and approved.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gregory Baruso / Chair

Rebecca Sexton-Kelly / Vice-Chair

State of Washington Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety