

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4805

September 20, 2023

Mr. Tristan Brown
Deputy Administrator
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Deputy Administrator Brown,

I write in regards to Welch Gas Cooperative Association's (WGC) application for funding through the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization (NGDISM) grant program. Funding will allow for important pipe infrastructure upgrades, and I am in support of their application.

As Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I am proud to have spearheaded bipartisan legislation that will make direct investments in our nation's infrastructure needs. To that effect, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will provide transformational support to our communities, and I am happy to see the positive effects this legislation is already having in West Virginia, and across the nation.

WGC services almost seven hundred customers throughout McDowell County, West Virginia. WGC provides affordable natural gas, and numerous job opportunities throughout the Welch area. The City of Welch is a Historically Disadvantaged Community, and is considered an Area of Persistent Poverty. Ensuring that low-income West Virginians have access to affordable energy is critical to improving quality of life, and spurring economic development.

Should funding be awarded, WGC will replace and relocate 3,610 feet of steel pipe with 4,170 feet of HDPE pipe. This will allow WGC to make necessary and important upgrades to their infrastructure in order to reduce emissions, and make their energy delivery safer and more reliable for their customers across McDowell County.

West Virginia's best days are ahead of us, and every investment made in our state brings us closer to the shared goal of uplifting Mountaineers everywhere. I am proud to see WGC directly investing in the future of our state, and I remain a committed partner to our federal, state, and local entities working in West Virginia. As you consider funding for this year's NGDISM grant program, I hope you will give this application your full consideration.

Sincerely,



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator