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**U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation**

**“Shale Gas Development: Meeting the Transportation, Pipeline and Rail Needs to Renew American Manufacturing”**

**Fairmont, West Virginia – April 11, 2012**

I represent the West Virginia Oil and Natural Gas Association which was founded in 1915. WVONGA is the oldest trade association in West Virginia.

As the shales are developed in the Appalachian Basin, there is a need to expand the current infrastructure. States such as West Virginia have been producing natural gas for over 100 years and have pipelines that are currently near capacity. With the expansion of drilling activity the need has increased to develop mid-stream not only to move gas to the interstate system but also to move gas to the processing facilities like those being developed along the Ohio River. The processing facilities strip the hydrocarbons from the natural gas stream and these market based products Ethane, Butane, Iso-Butane and Propane support manufacturing. Natural gas with its rich hydrocarbon base is instrumental to bringing back chemical manufacturing jobs back to this country.

Our ability to meet demands in the future will be based on how well we plan and develop this infrastructure today. As most of you are familiar, the challenges of building pipelines in West Virginia and this Basin are difficult and expensive, cutting through rock and traversing the hills of Appalachia must not deter our efforts to establish a new and improved pipeline systems.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation can assist in assuring that this infrastructure is completed in a reasonable timeframe to support downstream developments. Additionally, your committee can provide oversight and guidance to the Army Corp of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency as we develop needed infrastructure. It is an exciting and important time for us to work together to re-invent manufacturing in this country.