JOHN GARAMENDI
10TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

2459 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0510
PHONE: (202) 225-1880
FAX: (202) 225-5914

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1981 N. BROADWAY, SUITE 220
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94696
PHONE: (925) 932-8899
Fax (925) 932-8159

http://garamendi.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

September 15, 2010

Honorable James L. Oberstar
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable John L. Mica
Ranking Member
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar and Ranking Member Mica:

I write to you today to request that the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee conduct a field hearing on the devastating San Bruno pipeline explosion that occurred on September 9th, 2010.

The explosion and ensuing fire that erupted along a segment of a Pacific Gas and Electric Company high-pressure pipeline in San Bruno, California, has claimed the lives of at least four people and destroyed or damaged more than 100 homes. While the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the causes of the explosion, I feel that immediate Congressional action is warranted. Specifically, I request that a field hearing take place focusing on the following aspects of pipeline safety: the role of the federal regulatory agencies and processes, its adequacy of staff and budget; the role of the state regulatory agencies and processes, its adequacy of staff and budget; the role of utilities, its adequacy of staff and budget; and existing and planned urbanization near existing high-pressure pipelines.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

John Garamendi
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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