



March 17, 2021

Before the House Judiciary Committee
Testimony in Support of SB 172
Michael Gillaspie ONEOK, Inc. Director, Governmental Relations
115 SE 7th St, Suite 204, Topeka KS 785-435-8405

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Michael Gillaspie and I work for ONEOK, as the director of government relations in Kansas. ONEOK owns and operates one of the nation's premier natural gas and natural gas liquids (NGL) systems, connecting NGL supply in the Mid-Continent, Permian and Rocky Mountain regions with key market centers and is a leader in the gathering, processing, storage and transportation of natural gas in the U.S. ONEOK has operations in over 18 states, including substantial facilities and pipelines throughout the state of Kansas. ONEOK appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of this critical infrastructure protection legislation, aiming to protect America's critical infrastructure backbone, specifically those operations that fall within the state of Kansas.

ONEOK takes a cross-disciplinary approach to security, using systems and procedures to protect both physical and cyber assets, and to enhance business continuity and disaster recovery preparedness. Securing company assets is critical to ONEOK's commitment to be safe and reliable operators in our communities, good stewards of the environment, and ensure a safe workplace for employees and contractors.

In 2013, the Obama White House published a public policy directive on Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience, helping advance a national unity of effort to strengthen and maintain secure, functioning and resilient infrastructure. The intent was to have a proactive and coordinated effort to support and strengthen the Nation's diverse and complex critical infrastructure, including assets, networks and systems that are vital to public confidence, the Nation's safety, prosperity and well-being. We believe this legislation embodies and emboldens that, helping protect a backbone that keeps our country safe and running.

When talking about oil and gas, images of drilling rigs, pipelines and refineries often come to mind. Though this legislation aims to protect the critical infrastructure of that supply chain (pipelines, storage and refineries), the end-user of the products is the focus. Making sure that pipelines are protected, helps ensure that product reaches destinations like residential homes, schools and hospitals for warmth and essential functions that our products provide. Supporting this effort means supporting the infrastructure that our country relies on.

Companies like ONEOK regularly perform emergency preparedness drills to ensure they're ready as best they can for any situation that could impact their assets, whether natural disasters or criminal acts. We believe this legislation can help deter criminal acts against the critical infrastructure in our country, specifically in Kansas, and we voice our support for that effort. Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on this important issue contained in SB 172. I will be happy to answer questions or provide clarification at the appropriate time.