

**THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

December 13 , 1999

The Honorable Zach Wamp
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

COPY

Dear Congressman Wamp:

Thank you for your letter and report forwarded on behalf of Dr. Fahmy M. Haggag regarding Stress-Strain Microprobe™ (SSM) technology. Dr. Haggag's report has been forwarded to the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) for review.

The RSPA Administrator Kelley S. Coyner has advised me that the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) has been following the development of SSM technology for some time. Dr. Haggag's report has been reviewed and **the technology appears to be fundamentally sound for application in the pipeline industry.** Although the U.S. Government is not permitted to endorse an individual product or technology, **it is RSPA's policy to encourage industry to use the latest technology, materials and practices available.** RSPA is interested in and plans to follow the development of SSM technology as it is applied by the pipeline industry.

Again, thank you for bringing this information to our attention. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Michael J. Frazier, Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, at (202) 366-4563.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney E. Slater".

Rodney E. Slater

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