



**Mark Miller**  
Chairman

January 11, 2017

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
602 N. Fifth Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: Bayou Bridge Pipeline, LLC, AI 203160

The Independent Petroleum Association of America (“IPAA”) submits the following comments as part of the public hearing on the Bayou Bridge Pipeline, scheduled for January 12, 2017.

IPAA represents the thousands of companies that drill 95 percent of America's onshore and offshore oil and natural gas wells. America's independents produce 54 percent of American oil and produce 85 percent of American natural gas. IPAA members rely on a strong, safe network of pipelines to transport crude oil, natural gas, and their associated products to consumers.

Project sponsors already operate the initial portion of the pipeline, from Nederland, Texas, to Lake Charles, Louisiana. The completion of the project, to St. James, Louisiana, will provide for the safe transport of crude oil that can be refined by American refineries. Construction of the Lake Charles-to-St. James portion will be governed by state and federal safety regulations. The proposed route largely will follow rights-of-way used for other pipelines, power lines, and roads. Transport via pipeline will take off highways trucks that currently must transport crude to market.

Even with increased energy production from renewable resources and with energy conservation measures, our country will continue to rely on crude oil, which will be refined into gasoline and other products we use in our daily lives. Efforts to prevent construction of pipelines often are misguided efforts to prevent production of fossil fuels. Local economies and our national economy cannot function without fossil fuels. The Bayou Bridge Pipeline can continue these benefits.

With the growth in American energy production—and its attendant benefits in creating new jobs, providing consumers with affordable energy, lowering manufacturing costs, and improving air quality—comes the need for infrastructure to move the commodity to markets. As such, IPAA urges the Department of Environmental Quality to approve the necessary permits to allow completion of the Bayou Bridge Pipeline.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark K. Miller  
Chairman