

## Western States Petroleum Association

Thank you very much. My name is Antonio Machado and I am representative uh representative of the Western States Petroleum Association, a trade group that advocates for companies providing energy for transportation. We appreciate this opportunity to express our unwavering commitment to prioritizing safety and the protection of the environment as we produce energy. Over the years, our industry has learned from past incidents and invested significant resources and continuous improvement. Throughout the last 3 decades, we have implemented substantial measures to minimize environmental harm while producing and transporting the energy essential for sustaining the economic vitality of our region. We have adopted oil handling standards and spill prevention measures, improved preparedness and response assistance capabilities, and navigation technology, while also prioritizing crew competency. Our members believe in being prepared in any case and for any event. We currently maintain higher than ever emergency response safety stockpiles and conduct regular drills to prepare for any contingency. Proactively, we utilize double hulled vessels to mitigate spill risks. The improved material strength of our vessels significantly minimizes the potential for spills. We have enhanced tough designs and support an emergency response tug vessel in the area. While it has not been used to deter oil spill potential, it has provided aid to vessels in other industries or services. Additionally, our industry boasts the best safety record of the past 2 decades. As noted by the Harbor Safety, uh, Harbor Safety Committee, making our waters the safest navigable waters in the United States. In closing, WSPA fully supports ongoing efforts to improve safety and environmental protection. WSPA and its members believe that no job or task takes precedence over protecting the environment and the safety of our workers and community. We believe that the proposed financial responsibility amounts in the agency's proposed rule language provide appropriate protections given the significant improvements in the industry over the last decades and considering technological advancements. We commend the agency for its efforts and we reaffirm our unwavering dedication to supporting the rulemaking process and making a focus on environmental stewardship and safety. Thank you very much.