

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2975

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## AN ACT

To amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance the safety of pipeline transportation, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
 3 “Pipeline Integrity, Protection, and Enhancement for  
 4 Leveraging Investments in the Nation’s Energy to assure  
 5 Safety Act of 2025” or the “PIPELINE Safety Act of  
 6 2025”.

7 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for  
 8 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATIONS

- Sec. 101. Gas and hazardous liquid.
- Sec. 102. Operational expenses of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.
- Sec. 103. Other programs.

TITLE II—MODERNIZING PIPELINE SAFETY

- Sec. 201. Inspection of in-service breakout tanks.
- Sec. 202. Risk assessment obligations.
- Sec. 203. Timely incorporation by reference.
- Sec. 204. Report on updates to the National Pipeline Mapping System.
- Sec. 205. Pipeline safety enhancement programs.
- Sec. 206. Technical safety standards committees.
- Sec. 207. Enforcement procedures.
- Sec. 208. Civil penalties.
- Sec. 209. Improving whistleblower protections.
- Sec. 210. Assessment of composite materials.
- Sec. 211. Elements and evaluation of State damage prevention programs.
- Sec. 212. Pipeline safety voluntary information-sharing system.
- Sec. 213. Transporting gas.
- Sec. 214. Inspection and management of rights-of-way.
- Sec. 215. Geological hazards.
- Sec. 216. Alternative technologies.
- Sec. 217. Fire shutoff valves.
- Sec. 218. Exemption from post-accident testing.
- Sec. 219. Maximum allowable operating pressure records.
- Sec. 220. Pipeline operating status.
- Sec. 221. Potential impact radius.
- Sec. 222. Effects of weather on natural gas pipelines.
- Sec. 223. Aldyl–A pipelines.
- Sec. 224. Improvements to pipeline safety integrity management programs.
- Sec. 225. Nonemergency waivers by the Secretary.

TITLE III—STREAMLINING OVERSIGHT OF PIPELINES

- Sec. 301. Regulatory updates.
- Sec. 302. State use of integrated inspections.
- Sec. 303. Optimizing pipeline safety inspections.
- Sec. 304. Sense of Congress on PHMSA engagement prior to rulemaking activities.

#### TITLE IV—IMPROVING SAFETY OF EMERGING GASES

- Sec. 401. Studies of hydrogen pipeline transportation.
- Sec. 402. Safety of carbon dioxide pipelines.
- Sec. 403. Reporting of blended products.

#### TITLE V—IMPROVING EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND TRANSPARENCY

- Sec. 501. Bitumen oil response plan review.
- Sec. 502. National Center of Excellence for Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Leak Detection.
- Sec. 503. Operator financial disclosure.
- Sec. 504. Data and transparency.
- Sec. 505. Office of Public Engagement.
- Sec. 506. Clarification of confirmed discovery.
- Sec. 507. Public alert notification system for pipeline facilities.

#### TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 601. Prohibition on PHMSA operation, procurement, or contracting action with respect to covered unmanned aircraft systems.
- Sec. 602. Natural gas distribution pipeline infrastructure safety and modernization grants.
- Sec. 603. Issues affecting federally recognized Indian Tribes.
- Sec. 604. Identification of and justification for redactions.
- Sec. 605. Fees for loan guarantees.
- Sec. 606. Improving pipeline cybersecurity.
- Sec. 607. Technical corrections.

### 1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The term “Administra-  
 4 tion” means the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
 5 Safety Administration.

6 (2) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Adminis-  
 7 trator” means the Administrator of the Administra-  
 8 tion.

1           (3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
2 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-  
3 gress” means—

4           (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
5 and Transportation of the Senate;

6           (B) the Committee on Transportation and  
7 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;  
8 and

9           (C) the Committee on Energy and Com-  
10 merce of the House of Representatives.

11          (4) DOCUMENT PRODUCED TO ANOTHER PER-  
12 SON.—The term “document produced to another  
13 person” means a document produced in response to  
14 a request under section 552 of title 5, United States  
15 Code (commonly known as the Freedom of Informa-  
16 tion Act), a submission to a Federal, State, or Trib-  
17 al court, information made available on a website,  
18 and a document transmitted to Congress.

19          (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
20 the Secretary of Transportation.

## 21 **TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATIONS**

### 22 **SEC. 101. GAS AND HAZARDOUS LIQUID.**

23          Section 60125(a) of title 49, United States Code, is  
24 amended—

25           (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

2 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
3 by striking “\$156,400,000 for fiscal year  
4 2021” and inserting “\$185,000,000 for  
5 fiscal year 2026”; and

6 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking  
7 “\$63,000,000” and inserting  
8 “\$83,250,000”;

9 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

10 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
11 by striking “\$158,500,000 for fiscal year  
12 2022” and inserting “\$190,365,000 for  
13 fiscal year 2027”; and

14 (ii) in clause (ii)—

15 (I) by striking “\$66,000,000”  
16 and inserting “\$85,660,000”; and

17 (II) by striking “and” at the end;

18 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

19 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
20 by striking “\$162,700,000 for fiscal year  
21 2023” and inserting “\$195,886,000 for  
22 fiscal year 2028”; and

23 (ii) in clause (ii)—

24 (I) by striking “\$69,000,000”  
25 and inserting “\$88,150,000”; and

1 (II) by striking the period at the  
2 end and inserting a semicolon; and

3 (D) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(D) \$201,556,000 for fiscal year 2029, of  
5 which—

6 “(i) \$9,000,000 shall be used to carry  
7 out section 12 of the Pipeline Safety Im-  
8 provement Act of 2002 (49 U.S.C. 60101  
9 note; Public Law 107–355); and

10 “(ii) \$90,700,000 shall be used for  
11 making grants; and

12 “(E) \$207,412,000 for fiscal year 2030, of  
13 which—

14 “(i) \$9,000,000 shall be used to carry  
15 out section 12 of the Pipeline Safety Im-  
16 provement Act of 2002 (49 U.S.C. 60101  
17 note; Public Law 107–355); and

18 “(ii) \$93,340,000 shall be used for  
19 making grants.”;

20 (2) in paragraph (2)—

21 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

22 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
23 by striking “\$27,000,000 for fiscal year  
24 2021” and inserting “\$30,000,000 for fis-  
25 cal year 2026”; and

1 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking  
2 “\$11,000,000” and inserting  
3 “\$13,500,000”;

4 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

5 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
6 by striking “\$27,650,000 for fiscal year  
7 2022” and inserting “\$31,000,000 for fis-  
8 cal year 2027”; and

9 (ii) in clause (ii)—

10 (I) by striking “\$12,000,000”  
11 and inserting “\$13,950,000”; and

12 (II) by striking “and” at the end;

13 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

14 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
15 by striking “\$28,700,000 for fiscal year  
16 2023” and inserting “\$32,000,000 for fis-  
17 cal year 2028”; and

18 (ii) in clause (ii)—

19 (I) by striking “\$13,000,000”  
20 and inserting “\$14,400,000”; and

21 (II) by striking the period at the  
22 end and inserting a semicolon; and

23 (D) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(D) \$33,000,000 for fiscal year 2029, of

25 which—

1 “(i) \$3,000,000 shall be used to carry  
 2 out section 12 of the Pipeline Safety Im-  
 3 provement Act of 2002 (49 U.S.C. 60101  
 4 note; Public Law 107–355); and

5 “(ii) \$14,850,000 shall be used for  
 6 making grants; and

7 “(E) 34,000,000 for fiscal year 2030, of  
 8 which—

9 “(i) \$3,000,000 shall be used to carry  
 10 out section 12 of the Pipeline Safety Im-  
 11 provement Act of 2002 (49 U.S.C. 60101  
 12 note; Public Law 107–355); and

13 “(ii) \$15,300,000 shall be used for  
 14 making grants.”; and

15 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$8,000,000  
 16 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2023” and in-  
 17 serting “\$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026  
 18 through 2030”.

19 **SEC. 102. OPERATIONAL EXPENSES OF THE PIPELINE AND**  
 20 **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINIS-**  
 21 **TRATION.**

22 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
 23 retary for the necessary operational expenses of the Ad-  
 24 ministration—

25 (1) \$33,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

- 1 (2) \$34,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
- 2 (3) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;
- 3 (4) \$36,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and
- 4 (5) \$37,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.

5 **SEC. 103. OTHER PROGRAMS.**

6 (a) EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS.—Section  
7 60125(b)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended  
8 by striking “\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021  
9 through 2023 to carry out this subsection” and inserting  
10 “to carry out this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fis-  
11 cal years 2026 through 2030”.

12 (b) PIPELINE SAFETY INFORMATION GRANTS TO  
13 COMMUNITIES.—Section 60130 of title 49, United States  
14 Code, is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (c)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “section  
17 2(b) of the PIPES Act of 2016 (Public Law  
18 114–183; 130 Stat. 515), the Secretary shall  
19 use \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021  
20 through 2023 to carry out this section.” and in-  
21 serting the following: “section 60125(a)(1), the  
22 Secretary shall use to carry out this section—

23 “(A) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

24 “(B) \$2,750,000 for fiscal year 2027;

25 “(C) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

1 “(D) \$3,250,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

2 “(E) \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.”;

3 and

4 (B) in paragraph (2)—

5 (i) by striking “\$1,000,000”; and

6 (ii) by striking “section.” and insert-

7 ing the following: “section—

8 “(A) \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

9 “(B) \$1,250,000 for fiscal year 2027;

10 “(C) \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2028;

11 “(D) \$1,750,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

12 “(E) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.”;

13 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-  
14 section (e); and

15 (3) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-  
16 lowing:

17 “(d) DEADLINES.—

18 “(1) NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.—Not  
19 later than 60 days after the date on which funds are  
20 made available to carry out this section, the Sec-  
21 retary shall publish a notice of funding opportunity  
22 for the funds.

23 “(2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
24 grant under this section, an eligible applicant shall  
25 submit to the Secretary an application—

1           “(A) in such form and containing such in-  
2           formation as the Secretary considers to be ap-  
3           propriate; and

4           “(B) by such date as the Secretary may  
5           establish, subject to the condition that the date  
6           shall be not later than 60 days after the date  
7           on which the Secretary publishes the notice of  
8           funding opportunity under paragraph (1).

9           “(3) SELECTION.—Not later than 120 days  
10          after the date on which the Secretary publishes the  
11          notice of funding opportunity under paragraph (1),  
12          the Secretary shall announce the selection by the  
13          Secretary of eligible applicants to receive grants in  
14          accordance with this section.”.

15          (c) DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—Section  
16          60134(i) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by  
17          striking “\$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through  
18          2023. Such funds shall remain” and inserting  
19          “\$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030,  
20          to remain”.

21          (d) PIPELINE INTEGRITY PROGRAM.—Section 12(f)  
22          of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (49  
23          U.S.C. 60101 note; Public Law 107–355) is amended—

24                  (1) by striking “\$3,000,000” and inserting  
25                  “\$2,500,000”; and

1           (2) by striking “the fiscal years 2021 through  
2           2023” and inserting “fiscal years 2026 through  
3           2030”.

## 4           **TITLE II—MODERNIZING** 5           **PIPELINE SAFETY**

### 6           **SEC. 201. INSPECTION OF IN-SERVICE BREAKOUT TANKS.**

7           (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the  
8           date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise  
9           part 195 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, to allow  
10          for risk-based inspections of in-service breakout tanks if  
11          the Secretary finds such revisions maintain or enhance  
12          safety.

13          (b) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In revising the regulations  
14          under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider the  
15          American Petroleum Institute standard entitled “Tank In-  
16          spection, Repair, Alteration, and Reconstruction”, dated  
17          November 2014, and numbered API Standard 653 (Fifth  
18          Edition) (or a successor standard).

19          (c) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In revising the regulations  
20          under subsection (a), for any in-service breakout tanks  
21          that would be internally inspected less frequently under  
22          the revised regulations than required under part 195 of  
23          title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on Jan-  
24          uary 1, 2025), the Secretary shall require operators—

1 (1) to visually monitor the external conditions  
2 of those tanks on a routine basis; and

3 (2) to use a secondary containment system de-  
4 signed to contain hazardous liquids in the event of  
5 a leak.

6 (d) NOTIFICATION.—If the regulations promulgated  
7 under subsection (a) differ from the American Petroleum  
8 Institute standard referred to in subsection (b), the Sec-  
9 retary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-  
10 gress a notification explaining the reasons for the dif-  
11 ferences not later than 60 days after the date on which  
12 the regulations are published in the Federal Register.

13 **SEC. 202. RISK ASSESSMENT OBLIGATIONS.**

14 Section 60102(b)(4)(A) of title 49, United States  
15 Code, is amended—

16 (1) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

17 (2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the  
18 end and inserting “; and”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(iii) require that an officer or em-  
21 ployee of the Department of Transpor-  
22 tation with expertise in conducting risk as-  
23 sessments or cost-benefit analyses for pipe-  
24 line facilities or other modes of transpor-  
25 tation attend any meeting in which a com-

1           mittee described in clause (i) is serving as  
2           a peer review panel with respect to that  
3           risk assessment information.”.

4 **SEC. 203. TIMELY INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE.**

5           Section 60102 of title 49, United States Code, is  
6 amended by striking subsection (l) and inserting the fol-  
7 lowing:

8           “(l) UPDATING STANDARDS.—

9                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than  
10           once every 5 years, the Secretary shall—

11                           “(A) review each industry consensus stand-  
12           ard—

13                                   “(i) that has been adopted or incor-  
14                                   porated, partially or in full, as part of the  
15                                   Federal pipeline safety regulatory program  
16                                   under this chapter;

17                                   “(ii) that has been modified by a  
18                                   standards development organization (as de-  
19                                   fined in section 2(a) of the National Coop-  
20                                   erative Research and Production Act of  
21                                   1993 (15 U.S.C. 4301(a))) since being  
22                                   adopted or incorporated; and

23                                   “(iii) the modification of which has  
24                                   been published by a standards development

1 organization (as defined in that section);  
2 and

3 “(B) update, as determined necessary by  
4 the Secretary, the adoption or incorporation of  
5 each industry consensus standard reviewed  
6 under subparagraph (A).

7 “(2) LIST OF INDUSTRY STANDARDS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
9 maintain a publicly available list of all industry  
10 standards considered for adoption or incorpora-  
11 tion under this chapter, including—

12 “(i) the determination of the Sec-  
13 retary with respect to each standard con-  
14 sidered; and

15 “(ii) with respect to each standard not  
16 adopted or incorporated in full, the rea-  
17 soning for not adopting or incorporating  
18 that standard in full.

19 “(B) AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 30  
20 days after initial completion and each revision  
21 of the list under subparagraph (A), the Sec-  
22 retary shall publish the list on the public  
23 website of the Pipeline and Hazardous Mate-  
24 rials Safety Administration.

1           “(3) CONSIDERATION OF INDUSTRY CONSENSUS  
2 STANDARDS.—In prescribing new safety standards  
3 under this chapter, the Secretary shall consider  
4 adopting or incorporating industry consensus stand-  
5 ards.

6           “(4) PUBLIC ACCESS.—

7           “(A) IN GENERAL.—For all industry con-  
8 sensus standards incorporated or partially in-  
9 corporated under this chapter on or after the  
10 date of enactment of the PIPELINE Safety  
11 Act of 2025, the Secretary shall publish on the  
12 public website of the Pipeline and Hazardous  
13 Materials Safety Administration the full text of  
14 the standard or a direct link to an external  
15 source where the full text is available to the  
16 public on a website to view at no cost for the  
17 duration of time that the Secretary has the in-  
18 corporation by reference available for public  
19 comment.

20           “(B) EXCEPTION.—If the full text of an  
21 industry consensus standard is not published on  
22 the public website of the Pipeline and Haz-  
23 ardous Materials Safety Administration or  
24 available from that website via a direct link to  
25 an external source where the full text is avail-

1 able to the public on a website to view at no  
2 cost for the duration of time that the Secretary  
3 has the incorporation by reference available for  
4 public comment, then the Secretary shall not  
5 incorporate or partially incorporate under this  
6 chapter that industry consensus standard by  
7 reference.

8 “(C) PREVIOUSLY INCORPORATED STAND-  
9 ARDS.—For industry consensus standards in-  
10 corporated or partially incorporated under this  
11 chapter before the date of enactment of the  
12 PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025 that are pub-  
13 licly available on a public-facing website at no  
14 charge to the public, the Secretary shall publish  
15 on the public website of the Pipeline and Haz-  
16 ardous Materials Safety Administration the full  
17 text of the standard or a direct link to an exter-  
18 nal source where the full text is available to the  
19 public on a website.”.

20 **SEC. 204. REPORT ON UPDATES TO THE NATIONAL PIPE-**  
21 **LINE MAPPING SYSTEM.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
23 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
24 of the United States shall submit to the appropriate com-

1 mittees of Congress a report on the management of the  
2 National Pipeline Mapping System by the Administration.

3 (b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under sub-  
4 section (a) shall describe—

5 (1) how and when the Administration updates  
6 the high consequence area data contained in the Na-  
7 tional Pipeline Mapping System;

8 (2) what sources of scientific data are used for  
9 those updates; and

10 (3) how those data are validated for accuracy.

11 (c) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 2 years after the  
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall initiate  
13 a rulemaking to require that the information submitted  
14 under section 60132(a) of title 49, United States Code,  
15 has a spatial accuracy within a radius of 50 feet from the  
16 location of the facility (+/– 50 feet).

17 **SEC. 205. PIPELINE SAFETY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS.**

18 Section 60142 of title 49, United States Code, is  
19 amended—

20 (1) in subsection (e)(2), by striking “3 years  
21 after the date of enactment of this section” and in-  
22 serting “5 years after the date of enactment of the  
23 PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025”;

24 (2) in subsection (d)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or  
2 equal to” after “greater than”; and

3 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-  
4 ing the following:

5 “(2) DETERMINATION.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To accomplish the  
7 purpose of a testing program, the Secretary  
8 may issue an order waiving compliance with any  
9 part of an applicable standard prescribed under  
10 this chapter if the condition described in para-  
11 graph (1) is met, as determined by the Sec-  
12 retary.

13 “(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall  
14 not require testing program applicants to use  
15 the nonemergency waiver process, or to other-  
16 wise meet the requirements of the non-  
17 emergency waiver process, established under  
18 section 60118(c)(1).”;

19 (3) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the  
20 following:

21 “(h) AUTHORITY TO TERMINATE PROGRAM.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall imme-  
23 diately terminate a testing program under sub-  
24 section (a) if continuation of the testing program

1 would not be consistent with the goals and objectives  
2 of this chapter.

3 “(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 10 days  
4 after the termination of a testing program under  
5 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall notify the rel-  
6 evant pipeline operators of how they can address any  
7 deficiencies identified by the Secretary.

8 “(3) REINSTATEMENT.—If the Secretary deter-  
9 mines that the deficiencies identified under para-  
10 graph (2) are addressed, the Secretary shall rein-  
11 state the testing program.”; and

12 (4) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(m) APPROVAL PROCESS.—Establishment of a test-  
14 ing program under subsection (a) shall not be considered  
15 a major Federal action (as defined in section 111 of the  
16 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.  
17 4336e)) for purposes of that Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et  
18 seq.).”.

19 **SEC. 206. TECHNICAL SAFETY STANDARDS COMMITTEES.**

20 (a) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Section  
21 60115(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended,  
22 in the fifth sentence, by inserting “and notify the appro-  
23 priate committees of Congress (as defined in section 2 of  
24 the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025)” after “the Secretary  
25 shall publish the reasons”.

1 (b) FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS.—Section 60115(e) of  
2 title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “up  
3 to 4” and inserting “2”.

4 **SEC. 207. ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 60117(b)(1) of title 49,  
6 United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

8 (A) in clause (i), by striking “or” at the  
9 end;

10 (B) in clause (ii), by adding “or” after the  
11 semicolon at the end; and

12 (C) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(iii) to allow a recipient of a warning  
14 under section 190.205 of title 49, Code of  
15 Federal Regulations (or a successor regula-  
16 tion), to discuss claims made in the warn-  
17 ing with relevant staff;”;

18 (2) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” at  
19 the end;

20 (3) in subparagraph (J), by striking the period  
21 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

22 (4) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(K) for civil penalties over \$1,000,000,  
24 adjusted each year for inflation, allow the re-  
25 spondent to request a formal hearing in accord-

1           ance with section 554 of title 5, conducted by  
2           an administrative law judge; and

3           “(L) provide a written response to a re-  
4           quest for the withdrawal or modification of a  
5           written warning issued under this section.”.

6           (b) HEARINGS.—Section 60117(b) of title 49, United  
7 States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (2) and  
8 inserting the following:

9           “(2) HEARING REQUIREMENTS.—A hearing  
10          under this section shall—

11           “(A) be noticed to the public on the  
12          website of the Pipeline and Hazardous Mate-  
13          rials Safety Administration on its own page ti-  
14          tled ‘Upcoming Enforcement Hearings’;

15           “(B) provide an orderly and timely proc-  
16          ess, as determined by the Secretary;

17           “(C) in the case of a formal hearing, be  
18          open to the public.”.

19           (c) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year after the  
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall update  
21 the regulations prescribing protocols for all hearings under  
22 section 60117 of title 49, United States Code.

23           (d) APPLICATION.—Section 60117(b)(1)(K) of title  
24 49, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)(4))

1 shall apply only to civil penalties for violations that occur  
2 on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

3 **SEC. 208. CIVIL PENALTIES.**

4 Section 60122(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code,  
5 is amended—

6 (1) in the first sentence, by striking  
7 “\$200,000” and inserting “\$400,000”; and

8 (2) in the third sentence, by striking  
9 “\$2,000,000” and inserting “\$4,000,000”.

10 **SEC. 209. IMPROVING WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.**

11 Section 60129 of title 49, United States Code, is  
12 amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or”  
15 at the end;

16 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
17 “such a person.” and inserting “a person de-  
18 scribed in subparagraph (A); or”; and

19 (C) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(C) an officer, employee, or agent of a  
21 person described in subparagraph (A).”; and

22 (2) in subsection (b)(3)(B)—

23 (A) in clause (ii), by inserting “with inter-  
24 est” after “back pay”; and

1           (B) in clause (iii), by inserting “, including  
2           compensation for any special damages sustained  
3           as a result of the discrimination” after “com-  
4           pensatory damages to the complainant”.

5 **SEC. 210. ASSESSMENT OF COMPOSITE MATERIALS.**

6           (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall gather  
7 and assess any studies, data, standards, and approved ap-  
8 plications available as of the date of enactment of this Act  
9 that address the safety of composite materials to support  
10 the safe transportation of—

- 11           (1) natural gas;  
12           (2) hazardous liquids;  
13           (3) new fuels, such as hydrogen and hydrogen  
14           blended with natural gas; and  
15           (4) new fluids, such as carbon dioxide.

16           (b) **DEADLINE.**—The assessment under subsection  
17 (a) shall be completed not later than 1 year after the date  
18 of enactment of this Act.

19           (c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 30 days after com-  
20 pleting the assessment under subsection (a), the Adminis-  
21 trator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-  
22 gress a report describing the conclusions of the assess-  
23 ment.

24           (d) **RULEMAKING.**—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator con-  
2 cludes, based on the assessment under subsection  
3 (a), that composite materials provide, at a minimum,  
4 an equivalent level of safety as other pipelines under  
5 the jurisdiction of the Administration, the Adminis-  
6 trator shall promulgate regulations, not later than 1  
7 year after the date on which the report under sub-  
8 section (c) is submitted, that allow for the use of  
9 composite materials for the transportation of new  
10 fuels.

11           (2) INCORPORATION OF EXISTING STAND-  
12 ARDS.—The regulations promulgated under para-  
13 graph (1) may include adoption or incorporation by  
14 reference of existing industry consensus standards.

15 **SEC. 211. ELEMENTS AND EVALUATION OF STATE DAMAGE**  
16 **PREVENTION PROGRAMS.**

17           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 60134 of title 49, United  
18 States Code, is amended—

19           (1) in subsection (b)—

20           (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting  
21 “STATE” before “DAMAGE”;

22           (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1)  
23 through (9) as subparagraphs (A) through (I),  
24 respectively;

1 (C) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
2 (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “An” and  
3 inserting the following:

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An”;

5 (D) in paragraph (1) (as so designated)—

6 (i) by indenting subparagraphs (A)  
7 through (I) appropriately; and

8 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 “(J) A State one-call program that in-  
11 cludes, or is making substantial progress to-  
12 ward including, the one-call leading practices  
13 described in paragraph (2).”; and

14 (E) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(2) ONE-CALL LEADING PRACTICES.—The  
16 one-call leading practices referred to in paragraph  
17 (1)(J) are the following:

18 “(A) Restricting the size or scope of a one-  
19 call ticket for standard locate requests (which  
20 may include process exceptions for special large  
21 project tickets).

22 “(B) Restricting the longevity of a one-call  
23 ticket for standard locate requests (which may  
24 include process exceptions for special large  
25 project tickets).

1           “(C) Specifying tolerance (soft-dig only)  
2 zone horizontal dimensions.

3           “(D) Specifying tolerance zone require-  
4 ments.

5           “(E) Specifying emergency excavation noti-  
6 fication requirements.

7           “(F) Specifying the responsibilities of exca-  
8 vators, including the reporting of damages or  
9 suspected damages.

10          “(G) Defining who is an excavator and  
11 what is considered excavation.

12          “(H) Requiring the use of white-lining.

13          “(I) Requiring a positive response before  
14 excavation begins, such as a utility, munici-  
15 pality, or other entity that places the relevant  
16 marks positively responding to the notification  
17 center, and the excavator checking for that  
18 positive response before beginning excavation.

19          “(J) Requiring that newly installed under-  
20 ground facilities be locatable with commercially  
21 available technology.

22          “(K) Requiring the marking of sewer lines  
23 and laterals.

24          “(L) Specifying the qualifications of, and  
25 requirements for, those excavators performing

1 trenchless excavation activities that are not sub-  
2 ject to pipeline construction requirements under  
3 part 192 or 195 of title 49, Code of Federal  
4 Regulations (or successor regulations).”; and  
5 (2) in subsection (c)—

6 (A) by striking “In” and inserting the fol-  
7 lowing:

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In”; and

9 (B) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(2) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—The evaluation  
11 criteria used by the Secretary for determining the ef-  
12 fectiveness of a State damage prevention program  
13 shall include consideration of whether the State, at  
14 a minimum—

15 “(A) engages in effective, active, and  
16 meaningful enforcement of State one-call laws,  
17 including the efficacy of fines and penalties;

18 “(B) requires reporting to the local one-  
19 call center of excavation damage events that af-  
20 fect pipelines and other underground facilities  
21 that are not privately owned, including (to the  
22 extent available at the time of the reporting)—

23 “(i) information about the nature of  
24 the incident, including its apparent cause;

25 “(ii) the organizations involved;

1 “(iii) the impact to public safety, util-  
2 ity operations, and customer service; and

3 “(iv) the impact to the environment;  
4 and

5 “(C) limits exemptions to State damage  
6 prevention laws.”.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 60114(f) of  
8 title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “sec-  
9 tion 60134(b)(7)” and inserting “section  
10 60134(b)(1)(G)”.

11 **SEC. 212. PIPELINE SAFETY VOLUNTARY INFORMATION-**  
12 **SHARING SYSTEM.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 601 of title 49, United  
14 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
15 lowing:

16 **“§ 60144. Voluntary information-sharing system**

17 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-  
19 trator’ means the Administrator of the Pipeline and  
20 Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

21 “(2) GOVERNING BOARD.—The term ‘Gov-  
22 erning Board’ means the governing board estab-  
23 lished under subsection (d)(1).

1           “(3) ISSUE ANALYSIS TEAM.—The term ‘Issue  
2 Analysis Team’ means an Issue Analysis Team es-  
3 tablished under subsection (g)(1).

4           “(4) PROGRAM MANAGER.—The term ‘Program  
5 Manager’ means the Program Manager described in  
6 subsection (e).

7           “(5) THIRD-PARTY DATA MANAGER.—The term  
8 ‘Third-Party Data Manager’ means the Third-Party  
9 Data Manager appointed under subsection (f)(1).

10          “(6) VIS.—The term ‘VIS’ means the vol-  
11 untary information-sharing system established under  
12 subsection (b)(1).

13          “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

14           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
15 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary  
16 shall establish a confidential and nonpunitive vol-  
17 untary information-sharing system to encourage the  
18 sharing of pipeline safety data and information in  
19 order to improve the safety of gas transmission pipe-  
20 lines, gas distribution pipelines, liquefied natural gas  
21 facilities, underground natural gas storage facilities,  
22 and hazardous liquid pipelines.

23           “(2) REQUIREMENT.—The VIS shall be imple-  
24 mented and managed in accordance with the report  
25 entitled ‘Pipeline Safety Voluntary Information-

1 Sharing System Recommendation Report’ prepared  
2 under section 10 of the PIPES Act of 2016 (49  
3 U.S.C. 60108 note; Public Law 114–183) by the  
4 Voluntary Information Sharing System Working  
5 Group convened under that section.

6 “(3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the VIS shall  
7 be to serve as a comprehensive and integrated sys-  
8 tem—

9 “(A) to gather, evaluate, and quantify crit-  
10 ical pipeline safety data and information; and

11 “(B) to share recommended remediation  
12 measures and lessons learned across the pipe-  
13 line industry in an efficient and confidential  
14 manner.

15 “(c) GOVERNANCE.—The VIS shall be governed, in  
16 accordance with this section, by the Governing Board,  
17 with support from—

18 “(1) the Program Manager;

19 “(2) the Third-Party Data Manager; and

20 “(3) 1 or more Issue Analysis Teams.

21 “(d) GOVERNING BOARD.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
23 after the date of enactment of this section, the Ad-  
24 ministratoꝛ, after consulting with public, govern-

1 ment, and private pipeline safety stakeholders, shall  
2 establish a governing board for the VIS.

3 “(2) COMPOSITION.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Governing Board  
5 shall be composed of 15 members who shall rep-  
6 resent a balanced cross-section of pipeline safe-  
7 ty stakeholders, in accordance with subpara-  
8 graphs (B) and (C).

9 “(B) REPRESENTATION.—The Governing  
10 Board shall be composed of the following mem-  
11 bers:

12 “(i) 5 individuals selected from rel-  
13 evant pipeline safety departments, agen-  
14 cies, or instrumentalities of the Federal  
15 Government or State or territorial govern-  
16 ments, 1 of whom shall be the Adminis-  
17 trator (or a designee of the Administrator).

18 “(ii) 5 individuals selected from the  
19 gas or hazardous liquid industries, such as  
20 individuals representing or otherwise asso-  
21 ciated with—

22 “(I) operators;

23 “(II) trade associations;

1           “(III) inspection technology,  
2           coating, or cathodic protection ven-  
3           dors;

4           “(IV) standards development or-  
5           ganizations;

6           “(V) research and development  
7           consortia; or

8           “(VI) pipeline inspection organi-  
9           zations.

10           “(iii) 5 individuals selected from gen-  
11           eral public safety advocacy organizations  
12           with relevant pipeline safety expertise, in-  
13           cluding—

14           “(I) pipeline safety and environ-  
15           mental public interest groups;

16           “(II) public institutions of higher  
17           education with pipeline safety exper-  
18           tise; and

19           “(III) nonprofit employee labor  
20           organizations.

21           “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—

22           “(i) PIPELINE INDUSTRY.—At least 1  
23           member of the Governing Board appointed  
24           under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall be a rep-  
25           resentative of the pipeline industry.

1                   “(ii) PIPELINE SAFETY PUBLIC IN-  
2                   TEREST GROUPS.—At least 1 member of  
3                   the Governing Board appointed under sub-  
4                   paragraph (B)(iii) shall be a representative  
5                   of a pipeline safety public interest group.

6                   “(3) TERMS.—

7                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
8                   subparagraph (B), each member of the Gov-  
9                   erning Board shall be appointed for a term of  
10                  3 years.

11                  “(B) INITIAL MEMBERS.—In appointing  
12                  the initial members of the Governing Board, the  
13                  Administrator shall appoint members to terms  
14                  of 1, 2, or 3 years to ensure that each year  
15                  thereafter—

16                         “(i) the terms of 5 members will ex-  
17                         pire; and

18                         “(ii) the term of not less than 1 and  
19                         not more than 2 members described in  
20                         each of clauses (i) through (iii) of para-  
21                         graph (2)(B) will expire.

22                         “(C) REAPPOINTMENT.—A member or  
23                         former member of the Governing Board ap-  
24                         pointed under clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph

1 (2)(B) may be reappointed, but may only serve  
2 for a total of 3 terms.

3 “(4) CO-CHAIRS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Governing Board  
5 shall be co-chaired by—

6 “(i) the Administrator (or a designee  
7 of the Administrator);

8 “(ii) a representative of the pipeline  
9 industry appointed under paragraph  
10 (2)(B)(ii), who shall be appointed co-chair  
11 by the Administrator, with the advice and  
12 consent of the Governing Board; and

13 “(iii) a representative of a pipeline  
14 safety public interest group, who shall be  
15 appointed co-chair by the Administrator,  
16 with the advice and consent of the Gov-  
17 erning Board.

18 “(B) RESPONSIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.—

19 The co-chairs shall be jointly responsible for or-  
20 ganizing and conducting meetings of the Gov-  
21 erning Board.

22 “(5) AUTHORITY.—The Governing Board shall  
23 have authority—

24 “(A) to govern and provide strategic over-  
25 sight of the VIS;

1           “(B) to develop governance documents, in-  
2           cluding a charter for the Governing Board that  
3           shall—

4                   “(i) be made available to the public;  
5           and

6                   “(ii) describe—

7                           “(I) the scope of the authority of  
8                           the Governing Board; and

9                           “(II) the objectives of the Gov-  
10                          erning Board;

11           “(C) to select and appoint the Third-Party  
12           Data Manager in accordance with subsection  
13           (f);

14           “(D) to approve the criteria and proce-  
15           dures governing how the Third-Party Data  
16           Manager will receive and accept pipeline safety  
17           data and information;

18           “(E) to establish, and appoint members of,  
19           Issue Analysis Teams in accordance with sub-  
20           section (g);

21           “(F) to collaborate with Issue Analysis  
22           Teams to identify issues and topics to be ana-  
23           lyzed by the Issue Analysis Teams;

24           “(G) to collaborate with Issue Analysis  
25           Teams to specify the type of pipeline safety

1 data and information necessary for the Issue  
2 Analysis Teams to analyze the issues and topics  
3 identified under subparagraph (F);

4 “(H) to determine the information to be  
5 disseminated by the VIS;

6 “(I) to determine the reports to be dis-  
7 seminated by the VIS;

8 “(J) to issue, not less frequently than an-  
9 nually, publicly available reports on—

10 “(i) VIS processes;

11 “(ii) the membership of the Governing  
12 Board;

13 “(iii) issues and topics being inves-  
14 tigated and analyzed by Issue Analysis  
15 Teams or the Governing Board;

16 “(iv) pipeline safety data and informa-  
17 tion that the VIS has requested for sub-  
18 mission to the VIS; and

19 “(v) safety trends identified by the  
20 Administrator, Issue Analysis Teams, or  
21 the Governing Board; and

22 “(K) to perform such other functions that  
23 the Governing Board determines are—

24 “(i) necessary or appropriate; and

1                   “(ii) consistent with the purpose of  
2                   the VIS described in subsection (b)(3).

3                   “(6) DECISIONMAKING.—

4                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—Decisions and approv-  
5                   als of the Governing Board shall be made by a  
6                   super-majority of the members, as described in  
7                   subparagraph (B).

8                   “(B) SUPERMAJORITY DESCRIBED.—A  
9                   supermajority referred to in subparagraph (A)  
10                  shall consist of not fewer than—

11                  “(i)  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the total members of the  
12                  Governing Board; and

13                  “(ii) 1 additional member of the Gov-  
14                  erning Board.

15                  “(e) PROGRAM MANAGER.—

16                  “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator (or a  
17                  designee of the Administrator) shall serve as the  
18                  Program Manager for the VIS.

19                  “(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Program Man-  
20                  ager shall provide the day-to-day program manage-  
21                  ment and administrative support for the VIS, in-  
22                  cluding oversight of the Third-Party Data Manager.

23                  “(f) THIRD-PARTY DATA MANAGER.—

24                  “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governing Board shall  
25                  appoint a Third-Party Data Manager to provide

1 data management and data oversight services for the  
2 VIS.

3 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Third-Party Data  
4 Manager shall have expertise in data protection, ag-  
5 gregation, and analytics.

6 “(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In carrying out the  
7 services described in paragraph (1), the Third-Party  
8 Data Manager shall—

9 “(A) receive and secure pipeline safety  
10 data and information submitted to the VIS;

11 “(B) accept pipeline safety data and infor-  
12 mation submitted to the VIS that meets the cri-  
13 teria and procedures approved by the Governing  
14 Board under subsection (d)(5)(D);

15 “(C) de-identify, store, and manage pipe-  
16 line safety data and information that is accept-  
17 ed by the VIS;

18 “(D) collaborate with Issue Analysis  
19 Teams to analyze and aggregate pipeline safety  
20 data and information that is accepted by the  
21 VIS;

22 “(E) prepare reports as requested by the  
23 Governing Board regarding the type of pipeline  
24 safety data and information that is managed by  
25 the VIS; and

1           “(F) make recommendations to the Gov-  
2           erning Board regarding the management of  
3           pipeline safety data and information by the  
4           VIS, as appropriate.

5           “(g) ISSUE ANALYSIS TEAMS.—

6           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governing Board shall  
7           establish, and appoint the members of, 1 or more  
8           Issue Analysis Teams as the Governing Board deter-  
9           mines to be appropriate and relevant to the pipeline  
10          safety work of the VIS.

11          “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—An Issue Analysis  
12          Team established under paragraph (1) shall—

13               “(A) subject to subparagraph (B), consist  
14               of pipeline safety technical and subject matter  
15               experts; and

16               “(B) may include, as appropriate, rep-  
17               resentatives from public safety advocacy organi-  
18               zations described in subsection (d)(2)(B)(iii).

19          “(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—An Issue Analysis  
20          Team shall—

21               “(A) work with the Third-Party Data  
22               Manager to aggregate and analyze pipeline  
23               safety data and information submitted to the  
24               VIS relating to the issues and topics analyzed  
25               by the Issue Analysis Team; and

1           “(B) submit internal reports and rec-  
2           ommendations to the Governing Board on those  
3           issues and topics.

4           “(h) APPLICATION OF FACA.—Chapter 10 of title 5  
5 (commonly referred to as the ‘Federal Advisory Committee  
6 Act’) shall not apply to—

7           “(1) the VIS;  
8           “(2) the Governing Board; or  
9           “(3) any Issue Analysis Team.

10          “(i) PARTICIPATION IN THE VIS.—

11           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The submission of data  
12 and information to the VIS by any person shall be  
13 voluntary, with no person compelled to participate  
14 in, or to submit data or information to any person  
15 for inclusion in, the VIS.

16           “(2) REQUIREMENT.—The VIS shall not accept  
17 data or information relating to an operator if the op-  
18 erator has not authorized the submission of that  
19 data or information for inclusion in the VIS.

20           “(3) ENCOURAGING INFORMATION SHARING.—  
21 The Governing Board shall encourage the voluntary  
22 sharing of pipeline safety data and information  
23 among—

1           “(A) operators of gas transmission pipe-  
2           lines, gas distribution pipelines, and hazardous  
3           liquid pipelines;

4           “(B) employees of those operators;

5           “(C) labor unions representing those em-  
6           ployees;

7           “(D) contractors of the operators described  
8           in subparagraph (A);

9           “(E) in-line inspection service providers;

10          “(F) non-destructive evaluation experts;

11          “(G) the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
12          Safety Administration; and

13          “(H) representatives of—

14               “(i) State pipeline safety agencies;

15               “(ii) relevant Tribal agencies;

16               “(iii) pipeline safety public interest  
17               groups;

18               “(iv) manufacturers of gas trans-  
19               mission, gas distribution, and hazardous  
20               liquid pipeline infrastructure and equip-  
21               ment; and

22               “(v) relevant research and academic  
23               institutions.

24          “(4) LIMITATION ON INCLUSION OF DATA AND  
25          INFORMATION IN THE VIS.—Pipeline safety data and

1 information accepted by the Third-Party Data Man-  
2 ager for inclusion in the VIS under subsection  
3 (f)(3)(B) shall be related to the issues and topics  
4 identified by the Governing Board for analysis by an  
5 Issue Analysis Team under subsection (d)(5)(F).

6 “(5) TYPES OF DATA AND INFORMATION IN-  
7 CLUDED IN THE VIS.—Pipeline safety data and in-  
8 formation accepted by the Third-Party Data Man-  
9 ager for inclusion in the VIS under subsection  
10 (f)(3)(B) may include—

11 “(A) pipeline integrity risk analysis infor-  
12 mation;

13 “(B) lessons learned from accidents and  
14 near misses;

15 “(C) process improvements;

16 “(D) technology deployment practices;

17 “(E) information obtained through VIS  
18 pipeline safety surveys of pipeline operator em-  
19 ployees, subject to the condition that such sur-  
20 veys are voluntarily agreed to by the pipeline  
21 operator;

22 “(F) pipeline safety data and information  
23 which may lead to the identification of pipeline  
24 safety risks, as specified by the Governing  
25 Board; and

1           “(G) any other relevant data or informa-  
2           tion, as determined by the Governing Board.

3           “(j) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

4           “(1) IN GENERAL.—To facilitate the sharing of  
5           otherwise nonpublic pipeline safety data and infor-  
6           mation with the VIS, the data and information ac-  
7           cepted, stored, managed, analyzed, or produced by  
8           the VIS—

9           “(A) shall be kept confidential by the VIS;  
10          and

11          “(B) except as otherwise provided in this  
12          section, is not subject to disclosure by the VIS  
13          under any other law.

14          “(2) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in  
15          paragraph (3), no person, including the Program  
16          Manager, the Third-Party Data Manager, any mem-  
17          ber of the Governing Board, and any member of an  
18          Issue Analysis Team, and no Federal, State, local,  
19          or Tribal agency having or obtaining access to non-  
20          public information accepted, analyzed, stored, man-  
21          aged, or produced by the VIS may release or com-  
22          municate that nonpublic information from the VIS,  
23          either in an identified or de-identified form, to any  
24          person who does not have the authority to view VIS  
25          data.

1 “(3) EXCEPTION.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding  
3 paragraphs (1) and (2) and subsections (k) and  
4 (l), on approval by the Governing Board under  
5 subparagraph (B), the Governing Board or the  
6 Administrator may disclose de-identified non-  
7 public information obtained by the VIS.

8 “(B) APPROVAL.—Approval to disclose de-  
9 identified nonpublic information under subpara-  
10 graph (A)—

11 “(i) shall be based on an analysis of  
12 the de-identified nonpublic information;  
13 and

14 “(ii) may, in the sole discretion of the  
15 Governing Board, consist of any safety  
16 findings or recommendations that the Gov-  
17 erning Board determines to publish or au-  
18 thorizes the Administrator to publish to  
19 improve pipeline safety.

20 “(C) PUBLIC REPORTS.—In issuing public  
21 reports under subsection (d)(5)(J), the Gov-  
22 erning Board shall approve the disclosure of de-  
23 identified nonpublic information obtained by the  
24 VIS that the Governing Board determines is  
25 necessary to adequately describe and illustrate

1           the issues and topics being investigated and  
2           analyzed by Issue Analysis Teams or the Gov-  
3           erning Board.

4           “(4) SAVINGS PROVISION.—This subsection  
5           does not apply to public information that may be  
6           submitted to the VIS.

7           “(k) APPLICABILITY OF FOIA.—

8           “(1) EXEMPTION.—Any nonpublic information  
9           that is accepted, stored, managed, analyzed, or pro-  
10          duced by the VIS and subsequently obtained by the  
11          Secretary or the Administrator from the VIS is ex-  
12          empt from the requirements of section 552 of title  
13          5.

14          “(2) APPLICABILITY.—For purposes of para-  
15          graph (1), this section shall be considered to be a  
16          statute described in section 552(b)(3)(B) of title 5.

17          “(l) EXCLUSION OF VIS INFORMATION IN LITIGA-  
18          TION AND OTHER PROCEEDINGS.—

19          “(1) EXCLUDED EVIDENCE.—Except as pro-  
20          vided in paragraph (3), any nonpublic information  
21          that is accepted, stored, managed, analyzed, or pro-  
22          duced by the VIS may not be obtained from the  
23          VIS—

1           “(A) for use as evidence for any purpose in  
2           any Federal, State, local, Tribal, or private liti-  
3           gation, including any action or proceeding; or

4           “(B) to initiate any enforcement action or  
5           civil litigation against a pipeline operator or the  
6           employees or contractors of a pipeline operator  
7           relating to a probable violation under this chap-  
8           ter (including any regulation promulgated or  
9           order issued under this chapter).

10          “(2) EXCLUSION FROM DISCOVERY.—Except as  
11          provided in paragraph (3), any nonpublic informa-  
12          tion that is accepted, stored, managed, analyzed, or  
13          produced by the VIS shall not be subject to dis-  
14          covery from the VIS in any Federal, State, local,  
15          Tribal, or private litigation or other proceeding.

16          “(3) LIMITATIONS ON EXCLUSIONS.—The ex-  
17          clusions described in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall  
18          not apply to data or information that—

19               “(A) is evidence of a criminal violation;

20               “(B) is not related to the purpose of the  
21          VIS described in subsection (b)(3);

22               “(C) is otherwise required to be reported  
23          to the Secretary under part 190, 191 (including  
24          information about an incident or accident), 192,

1           194, 195, or 199 of title 49, Code of Federal  
2           Regulations (or successor regulations);

3           “(D) is required to be reported to a State  
4           authority under State pipeline safety laws; or

5           “(E) is developed or obtained from a  
6           source other than the VIS, including through  
7           discovery from a person or an entity other than  
8           the VIS in an enforcement action or private liti-  
9           gation.

10          “(m) EFFECT ON DISCOVERY.—Except as provided  
11          in subsection (l)(2), nothing in this section or any rule  
12          or regulation promulgated under this section—

13                 “(1) creates a defense to a discovery request; or

14                 “(2) otherwise limits or affects the discovery of  
15          pipeline safety data and information arising from a  
16          cause of action authorized under any other Federal,  
17          State, or local law.

18          “(n) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section  
19          affects any Federal, State, or local pipeline safety law.

20          “(o) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Each fiscal year, the Sec-  
21          retary shall submit to Congress, by the end of that fiscal  
22          year, a report on the status of the VIS.

23          “(p) FUNDING.—

24                 “(1) SUSTAINABLE FUNDING.—The Secretary  
25          shall—

1           “(A) explore sustainable funding sources  
2           for the VIS, including public-private partner-  
3           ships; and

4           “(B) to the maximum extent practicable,  
5           sustainably fund the VIS through the use of  
6           those sustainable funding sources.

7           “(2) LIMITED ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—In addi-  
8           tion to the fees collected under section 60301, the  
9           Secretary may collect an additional \$5,000,000  
10          under that section for each of fiscal years 2026  
11          through 2030 to establish, implement, and manage  
12          the VIS.”.

13          (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 60101(a) of title 49,  
14          United States Code, is amended—

15                 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (17) through  
16                 (26) as paragraphs (18), (19), (20), (25), (26), (27),  
17                 (22), (23), (24), and (28), respectively, and moving  
18                 the paragraphs so as to appear in numerical order;

19                 (2) by inserting after paragraph (16) the fol-  
20                 lowing:

21                 “(17) NONPUBLIC INFORMATION.—The term  
22                 ‘nonpublic information’ means any pipeline safety  
23                 data or information, regardless of form or format,  
24                 that—

1           “(A) a company does not disclose, dissemi-  
2           nate, or make available to the public; or

3           “(B) is not otherwise in the public do-  
4           main.”; and

5           (3) by inserting after paragraph (20) (as so re-  
6           designated) the following:

7           “(21) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—The term ‘public  
8           information’ means any data or information, regard-  
9           less of form or format, that—

10           “(A) a company discloses, disseminates, or  
11           makes available to the public; or

12           “(B) is otherwise in the public domain.”.

13           (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-  
14           ter 601 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by  
15           adding at the end the following:

“60144. Voluntary information-sharing system.”.

16           (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

17           (1) Section 70012(c) of title 46, United States  
18           Code, is amended by striking “section  
19           60101(a)(18)” and inserting “section 60101(a)”.

20           (2) Section 60102(q)(1) of title 49, United  
21           States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding  
22           subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (a)(21)”  
23           and inserting “subsection (a)(26)”.

1 **SEC. 213. TRANSPORTING GAS.**

2 Section 60101(a)(26) of title 49, United States Code  
3 (as redesignated by section 212(b)(1)), is amended—

4 (1) by striking the paragraph designation and  
5 all that follows through “(A) means” in subpara-  
6 graph (A) and inserting the following:

7 “(26) TRANSPORTING GAS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘trans-  
9 porting gas’ means”;

10 (2) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “; but”  
11 and inserting a period; and

12 (3) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting  
13 the following:

14 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘trans-  
15 porting gas’ does not include—

16 “(i) gathering gas (except through  
17 regulated gathering lines) in a rural area  
18 outside a populated area designated by the  
19 Secretary as a nonrural area; or

20 “(ii) the movement of gas by the  
21 owner or operator of a plant for use as a  
22 fuel, a feedstock, or for any other purpose  
23 that directly supports plant operations  
24 through—

1 “(I) in-plant piping systems that  
2 are located entirely on the grounds of  
3 the plant; or

4 “(II) transfer piping systems  
5 that extend less than 1 mile in length  
6 outside the grounds of the plant.”.

7 **SEC. 214. INSPECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF RIGHTS-OF-**  
8 **WAY.**

9 (a) INSPECTION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Section 60108  
10 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at  
11 the end the following:

12 “(f) INSPECTION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—When requiring an oper-  
14 ator to inspect the surface conditions on or adjacent  
15 to a pipeline right-of-way, the Secretary shall allow  
16 the use of unmanned aircraft systems and satellites.

17 “(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this sub-  
18 section affects any obligation to operate an un-  
19 manned aircraft system in accordance with all rel-  
20 evant Federal laws relating to the use of unmanned  
21 aircraft systems.”.

22 (b) MANAGEMENT OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Section  
23 60108(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1) Each”  
25 and inserting the following:

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each”;

2 (2) in paragraph (2)—

3 (A) by striking “(2) If” and inserting the  
4 following:

5 “(2) REVISION.—If”;

6 (B) by indenting subparagraphs (A)  
7 through (E) appropriately; and

8 (C) in subparagraph (D), by indenting  
9 clauses (i) through (iii) appropriately;

10 (3) in paragraph (3), by indenting the para-  
11 graph, and each subparagraph within the paragraph,  
12 appropriately; and

13 (4) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(4) ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF MAINTAINING  
15 RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the review  
17 conducted under paragraph (3), the Secretary  
18 shall allow for an alternative method of main-  
19 taining rights-of-way for pipelines and other  
20 pipeline facilities under a voluntary program  
21 carried out by the operator if the Secretary de-  
22 termines that the alternative method—

23 “(i) achieves a level of safety at least  
24 equal to the level of safety required by the

1 regulations promulgated under this chap-  
2 ter; and

3 “(ii) allows for timely emergency re-  
4 sponse.

5 “(B) PURPOSE.—An operator considering  
6 implementing an alternative method described  
7 in subparagraph (A) may consider incor-  
8 porating into the plan for implementing that  
9 method 1 or more conservation practices, in-  
10 cluding—

11 “(i) integrated vegetation manage-  
12 ment practices, including reduced mowing;

13 “(ii) the development of habitat and  
14 forage for pollinators and other wildlife  
15 through seeding or planting of diverse na-  
16 tive forbs and grasses;

17 “(iii) practices relating to mainte-  
18 nance strategies that promote early succes-  
19 sional vegetation or limit disturbance dur-  
20 ing periods of highest use by target polli-  
21 nator species and other wildlife on pipeline  
22 or facility rights-of-way, including—

23 “(I) increasing mowing height;

24 “(II) reducing mowing frequency;

25 and

1                   “(III) refraining from mowing  
2                   monarch and other pollinator habitat  
3                   during periods in which monarchs or  
4                   other pollinators are present;

5                   “(iv) an integrated vegetation man-  
6                   agement plan that may include approaches  
7                   such as mechanical tree and brush removal  
8                   and targeted and judicious use of herbi-  
9                   cides and mowing to address incompatible  
10                  or undesirable vegetation while promoting  
11                  compatible and beneficial vegetation on  
12                  pipeline and facility rights-of-way;

13                  “(v) planting or seeding of deeply  
14                  rooted, regionally appropriate perennial  
15                  grasses and wildflowers, including milk-  
16                  weed, to enhance habitat;

17                  “(vi) removing shallow-rooted grasses  
18                  from planting and seeding mixes, except  
19                  for use as nurse or cover crops; and

20                  “(vii) obtaining expert training or as-  
21                  sistance on wildlife- and pollinator-friendly  
22                  practices, including—

23                         “(I) native plant identification;

1           “(II) establishment and manage-  
2           ment of regionally appropriate native  
3           plants;

4           “(III) land management prac-  
5           tices; and

6           “(IV) integrated vegetation man-  
7           agement.

8           “(C) CONSULTATION.—

9           “(i) AVAILABLE GUIDANCE.—In devel-  
10          oping alternative methods under this para-  
11          graph, an operator shall consult any avail-  
12          able guidance issued by—

13           “(I) the Secretary; or

14           “(II) an applicable State agency  
15          carrying out compliance activities on  
16          behalf of the Secretary in accordance  
17          with section 60105.

18          “(ii) LEADING INDUSTRY PRAC-  
19          TICES.—In the absence of guidance de-  
20          scribed in clause (i), an operator may con-  
21          sult leading industry practices and guid-  
22          ance to develop and implement alternative  
23          methods under this paragraph.

24          “(D) REQUIREMENTS.—An operator using  
25          an alternative method under this paragraph

1 shall ensure that the alternative inspection  
2 plans of the operator continue to ensure that  
3 the operator can identify risks to pipeline facili-  
4 ties.

5 “(E) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in  
6 this paragraph exempts an operator from com-  
7 pliance with any applicable requirements under  
8 this chapter (including any regulations promul-  
9 gated under this chapter).”.

10 (c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—5 years after the  
11 date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of  
12 the Department of Transportation shall initiate a review  
13 of a representative sample of the inspection and mainte-  
14 nance plans of operators that have utilized alternative  
15 methods of maintaining rights-of-way under section  
16 60108(a)(4) of title 49, United States Code, to deter-  
17 mine—

18 (1) whether reduced mowing has limited the  
19 ability of pipeline operators to assess risks to pipe-  
20 line facilities;

21 (2) with respect to any incidents that have oc-  
22 curred on the relevant pipeline facilities, whether re-  
23 duced mowing hindered—

24 (A) the ability of operators to identify a  
25 risk that was related to the incident; or

1 (B) the ability for operators and emer-  
2 gency responders to respond to an incident; and

3 (3) whether the alternative methods of main-  
4 taining rights-of-way have impacted pipeline safety.

5 (d) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 60108(e) of  
6 title 49, United States Code, is amended, in the subsection  
7 heading, by striking “IN GENERAL” and inserting “POST-  
8 INSPECTION BRIEFING AND PRELIMINARY FINDINGS”.

9 **SEC. 215. GEOLOGICAL HAZARDS.**

10 (a) INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE PLANS.—Sec-  
11 tion 60108(a)(2)(D) of title 49, United States Code (as  
12 amended by section 214(b)(2)), is amended—

13 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;  
14 and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(iv) mitigation of threats posed by  
17 geological hazards; and”.

18 (b) GEOLOGICAL HAZARD MITIGATION REPORT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after  
20 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator  
21 shall prepare a report that—

22 (A) identifies geological hazards that may  
23 cause a pipeline to move or be affected by ab-  
24 normal external loads, including landslides, vol-  
25 canic activity, earthquakes, and scouring;

1 (B) evaluates any industry consensus  
2 standards or best practices relating to hazards  
3 described in subparagraph (A);

4 (C) evaluates existing Federal require-  
5 ments for pipeline facility design, construction,  
6 operations, maintenance, and integrity that re-  
7 late to mitigation of geological hazards; and

8 (D) makes recommendations to improve  
9 geological hazard mitigation based on the find-  
10 ings of the report.

11 (2) SUBMISSION.—On completion of the report  
12 under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall submit  
13 the report to the Secretary and the appropriate com-  
14 mittees of Congress.

15 (c) REGULATORY REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year  
16 after completion of the report under subsection (b)(1), the  
17 Secretary shall review, and may update, as appropriate,  
18 existing regulations and policy guidance that addresses the  
19 safety of gas, hazardous liquid, and carbon dioxide pipe-  
20 line facilities to include consideration of threats posed by  
21 geological hazards.

22 **SEC. 216. ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES.**

23 (a) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.—Not later than 2  
24 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every  
25 5 years thereafter, the Administrator shall—

1           (1) issue a request for proposals to identify po-  
2           tential alternative technologies that, if used by oper-  
3           ators, will meet the intent of an existing pipeline  
4           safety regulation and provide an equal or greater  
5           level of pipeline safety; and

6           (2) allow the public the opportunity to comment  
7           on those proposals.

8           (b) REGULATIONS.—If the Secretary determines that  
9           a technology that is commercially available would meet the  
10          intent of an existing pipeline safety regulation and provide  
11          an equal or greater level of pipeline safety, the Adminis-  
12          trator may issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to up-  
13          date the relevant regulations to allow operators to adopt  
14          the use of such technology.

15   **SEC. 217. FIRE SHUTOFF VALVES.**

16          Section 60110 of title 49, United States Code, is  
17          amended by adding at the end the following:

18          “(f) FIRE SHUTOFF VALVES OR EQUIVALENT TECH-  
19          NOLOGY.—

20                 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

21                         “(A) EQUIVALENT TECHNOLOGY.—The  
22                         term ‘equivalent technology’ means any tech-  
23                         nology that—

24                                 “(i) is not an excess flow valve; and

1                   “(ii) meets the performance standard  
2                   of shutting off gas on a service line of a  
3                   distribution system to a dwelling or other  
4                   building in the event of a fire.

5                   “(B) FIRE-FIRST IGNITION.—The term  
6                   ‘fire-first ignition’ means an occurrence in  
7                   which a fire originating from a foreign source  
8                   causes a natural gas system to fail, release, or  
9                   ignite.

10                  “(C) FIRE SAFETY VALVE.—The term ‘fire  
11                  safety valve’ means—

12                         “(i) a fire shutoff valve; and

13                         “(ii) any equivalent technology.

14                  “(D) FIRE SHUTOFF VALVE.—The term  
15                  ‘fire shutoff valve’ means a spring-loaded plug  
16                  that is held in place by a fusible link that—

17                         “(i) is made of a low-melting-point  
18                         alloy;

19                         “(ii) is attached to a gas source; and

20                         “(iii) melts when exposed to fire,  
21                         causing the spring-loaded plug to close,  
22                         shutting off the gas to a dwelling or other  
23                         building connected to a service line of a  
24                         distribution system.

25                  “(2) STUDY.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years  
2           after the date of enactment of this subsection,  
3           the Secretary shall complete a study on the ef-  
4           fectiveness of fire safety valves in order to de-  
5           termine the ability of fire safety valves to im-  
6           prove public safety through mitigation of sec-  
7           ondary ignitions, such as fire-first ignitions.

8           “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The study under  
9           subparagraph (A) shall evaluate—

10                   “(i) various scenarios and applications  
11                   for deploying fire safety valves;

12                   “(ii) the current incidence of fire-first  
13                   ignition of natural gas distribution pipe-  
14                   lines;

15                   “(iii) anticipated reduction of fire-first  
16                   ignition risk under various fire safety valve  
17                   deployment scenarios, including—

18                           “(I) lowering the likelihood of  
19                           gas ignition; and

20                           “(II) lowering the impact and  
21                           damage of fire-first ignition incidents;

22                   “(iv) the long-term durability, con-  
23                   struction, and effectiveness of fire safety  
24                   valves; and

1                   “(v) the commercial availability of fire  
2                   safety valves for the pipeline industry.

3                   “(3) RULEMAKING.—After completing the  
4                   study described in paragraph (2), the Secretary may  
5                   prescribe risk-based standards on the circumstances  
6                   under which an operator of a natural gas distribu-  
7                   tion system shall be required to install fire shutoff  
8                   valves or equivalent technologies in the system.”.

9 **SEC. 218. EXEMPTION FROM POST-ACCIDENT TESTING.**

10           Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment  
11 of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-  
12 retary of Health and Human Services, shall update the  
13 regulations of the Administration to provide that a covered  
14 employee (as defined in section 199.3 of title 49, Code  
15 of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)) whose  
16 previous performance of a covered function (as defined in  
17 that section (or a successor regulation)) takes place out-  
18 side of the time frame during which the use of prohibited  
19 drugs or alcohol can be detected by post-accident testing  
20 under section 199.105(b) or 199.225(a), as applicable, of  
21 that title (or successor regulations)) is exempt from such  
22 post-accident testing.

1 **SEC. 219. MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE OPERATING PRESSURE**  
2 **RECORDS.**

3 (a) PREVIOUSLY TESTED TRANSMISSION LINES.—  
4 Until the report required under subsection (b)(1) and the  
5 rulemaking required under subsection (c) (if determined  
6 necessary by the Secretary) are completed, the Secretary  
7 shall not require an owner or operator of a pipeline facility  
8 to reconfirm the maximum allowable operating pressure  
9 of a natural gas transmission pipeline pursuant to section  
10 192.624 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or a suc-  
11 cessor regulation), if the owner or operator confirms the  
12 material strength of the pipeline through prior testing con-  
13 ducted to a sufficient minimum pressure in accordance  
14 with prevailing safety standards and practices, including  
15 any applicable class location factors, and documented in  
16 contemporaneous records.

17 (b) WORKING GROUP REPORT.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall direct  
19 the existing maximum allowable operating pressure  
20 working group of the Administration (referred to in  
21 this subsection as the “working group”) to continue  
22 producing a report containing recommendations on  
23 the contemporaneous records that are sufficient to  
24 confirm the material strength of a natural gas trans-  
25 mission pipeline through prior testing.

1           (2) COMPOSITION OF WORKING GROUP.—For  
2 purposes of carrying out paragraph (1), the working  
3 group shall be composed of the members rep-  
4 resenting the same stakeholders of the working  
5 group as of January 1, 2025.

6           (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In preparing the report  
7 required under paragraph (1), the working group—

8                   (A) shall consider historical practices and  
9 all available research conducted regarding min-  
10 imum pressure and contemporaneous records on  
11 transmission pipelines;

12                   (B) may consider the need for any addi-  
13 tional research or analyses necessary to dem-  
14 onstrate the adequacy of any strength testing  
15 performed; and

16                   (C) shall consider the investigation, report,  
17 and recommendations of the National Trans-  
18 portation Safety Board following the San  
19 Bruno pipeline explosion.

20           (4) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Not later than  
21 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
22 working group shall submit to the Secretary and the  
23 appropriate committees of Congress the report pro-  
24 duced under paragraph (1), including any minority  
25 views.

1 (c) RULEMAKING.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
3 receiving the report described in subsection (b)(1), if  
4 the Secretary determines necessary, the Secretary,  
5 after providing notice and opportunity for comment,  
6 shall promulgate standards revising the require-  
7 ments addressing the records necessary to confirm  
8 the maximum allowable operating pressure of a nat-  
9 ural gas transmission pipeline segment.

10 (2) LIMITATIONS.—The rulemaking under  
11 paragraph (1) shall not delay the date by which  
12 pipeline operators must comply with maximum al-  
13 lowable operating pressure reconfirmation regula-  
14 tions with respect to their natural gas transmission  
15 pipeline segments under section 192.624 of title 49,  
16 Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
17 date of enactment of this Act).

18 **SEC. 220. PIPELINE OPERATING STATUS.**

19 Section 60143(b) of title 49, United States Code, is  
20 amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the fol-  
21 lowing:

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days  
23 after the date of enactment of the PIPELINE Safe-  
24 ty Act of 2025, the Secretary shall promulgate regu-

1 lations prescribing the applicability of the pipeline  
2 safety requirements to—

3 “(A) idled natural gas transmission pipe-  
4 lines;

5 “(B) idled other gas transmission pipe-  
6 lines; and

7 “(C) idled hazardous liquid pipelines.”.

8 **SEC. 221. POTENTIAL IMPACT RADIUS.**

9 (a) DEFINITION OF POTENTIAL IMPACT RADIUS.—

10 In this section, the term “potential impact radius” means  
11 the area within which the potential failure of a pipeline  
12 could have significant impact on persons or property, in-  
13 cluding injury or death.

14 (b) REVIEW OF METHODOLOGY.—

15 (1) REVIEW.—Not later than 3 years after the  
16 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall re-  
17 view—

18 (A) the methodology, including any for-  
19 mulas, used by the Administration to determine  
20 a potential impact radius for onshore gas trans-  
21 mission pipelines; and

22 (B) any applicable recommendations, in-  
23 cluding any pipeline safety recommendations  
24 submitted to the Secretary or Congress by the

1 National Transportation Safety Board or the  
2 Government Accountability Office.

3 (2) REPORT.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180  
5 days after completion of the review under para-  
6 graph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the ap-  
7 propriate committees of Congress a report de-  
8 tailing the findings of the review.

9 (B) REQUIREMENT.—The report under  
10 subparagraph (A) shall evaluate whether the  
11 methodology reviewed under paragraph (1)(A)  
12 accounts for—

13 (i) available human response data;

14 (ii) accident data relating to recent  
15 pipeline incidents since January 1, 2000;

16 (iii) the risk of serious injury or  
17 death, or property damage, from a pipeline  
18 incident; and

19 (iv) the unique characteristics of the  
20 types of gas being transported.

21 (c) INVESTIGATION REPORTS.—Beginning not later  
22 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, any  
23 Pipeline Failure Investigation reports prepared by the Ac-  
24 cident Investigation Division of the Administration for ac-  
25 cidents involving onshore gas transmission pipelines shall

1 identify the location and distance from the pipeline of  
2 damage, including injuries and property damage, outside  
3 of the potential impact radius determined for the pipeline.

4 **SEC. 222. EFFECTS OF WEATHER ON NATURAL GAS PIPE-**  
5 **LINES.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) APPLICABLE WEATHER EVENT.—The term  
8 “applicable weather event” means—

9 (A) a relevant weather-related event de-  
10 scribed in the definition of the term “major dis-  
11 aster” in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford  
12 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act  
13 (42 U.S.C. 5122) that has the potential to im-  
14 pact the safety of a natural gas pipeline facility;

15 (B) the February 2021 winter storm  
16 known as “Winter Storm Uri”; and

17 (C) the December 2022 winter storm  
18 known as “Winter Storm Elliott”.

19 (2) NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FACILITY.—The  
20 term “natural gas pipeline facility” means—

21 (A) a natural gas pipeline; and

22 (B) any related pipeline facility, equip-  
23 ment, or infrastructure.

1 (b) REVIEW AND REPORT.—Not later than 1 year  
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
3 shall—

4 (1) complete a review of the effects of applica-  
5 ble weather events on natural gas pipeline facilities  
6 to determine whether applicable weather events pose  
7 a risk to safety during and after the applicable  
8 weather event; and

9 (2) submit to the appropriate committees of  
10 Congress a report on the results of that review.

11 (c) DISTRIBUTION INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT  
12 PLANS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which  
13 the report under subsection (b)(2) is submitted, the Sec-  
14 retary shall review the distribution integrity management  
15 plans relating to pipelines that are at increased risk of  
16 applicable weather events to ensure that the owners and  
17 operators of those pipelines are mitigating the effects of  
18 applicable weather events to ensure public safety.

19 **SEC. 223. ALDYL—A PIPELINES.**

20 (a) ASSESSMENT OF ALDYL—A POLYETHYLENE PIP-  
21 ING.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment  
22 of this Act, each owner or operator of a gas distribution  
23 pipeline facility shall assess its system for the presence  
24 of Aldyl—A polyethylene.

25 (b) LIMITATION.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not re-  
2           quire owners and operators of gas distribution pipe-  
3           line facilities to conduct excavation activities for the  
4           purpose of the assessment required under subsection  
5           (a).

6           (2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this sub-  
7           section affects the authority of the Secretary  
8           under—

9                   (A) section 60112 of title 49, United  
10           States Code; or

11                   (B) subsection (m) or (p) of section 60117  
12           of that title.

13           (c) REPORTING.—Not later than 3 years after the  
14           date of enactment of this Act, each owner or operator of  
15           a pipeline facility described in subsection (a) shall submit  
16           to the Secretary the estimated total pipeline mileage iden-  
17           tified by the owner or operator as Aldyl-A polyethylene  
18           piping.

19           (d) STATE PIPELINE SAFETY PROGRAM CERTIFI-  
20           CATIONS.—Section 60105(b)(9)(A) of title 49, United  
21           States Code, is amended by striking “of cast iron and bare  
22           steel pipelines” and inserting the following: “of—

23                           “(i) cast iron and bare steel pipelines;  
24                           and

1                   “(ii) pipelines constructed of historic  
2                   plastics with known safety issues”.

3           (e) EVALUATION OF RISK IN DISTRIBUTION INTEG-  
4 RITY           MANAGEMENT           PROGRAMS.—Section  
5 60109(e)(7)(A)(i) of title 49, United States Code, is  
6 amended by striking “presence of cast iron pipes and  
7 mains in the distribution system; and” and inserting the  
8 following: “presence, in the distribution system, of pipes  
9 and mains made of—

10                                   “(I) cast iron;

11                                   “(II) unprotected steel;

12                                   “(III) wrought iron; or

13                                   “(IV) historic plastics with  
14                                   known safety issues; and”.

15 **SEC. 224. IMPROVEMENTS TO PIPELINE SAFETY INTEGRITY**  
16 **MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.**

17           The Secretary shall conduct research into the use of  
18 quantitative data and modeling to assess whether the use  
19 of such data or modeling in the integrity management pro-  
20 grams of operators would improve the estimation of costs  
21 and benefits of risk reduction measures.

22 **SEC. 225. NONEMERGENCY WAIVERS BY THE SECRETARY.**

23           Section 60118(e) of title 49, United States Code, is  
24 amended—

25                   (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “not  
2 inconsistent” and inserting “consistent”;

3 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
4 “and comment” after “only after notice”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(C) ACTION ON APPLICATION.—Not later  
7 than 180 days after receiving an application for  
8 a waiver under this paragraph, the Secretary  
9 shall—

10 “(i) complete any applicable review re-  
11 lating to the application and act on the ap-  
12 plication by—

13 “(I) issuing an order granting  
14 the waiver; or

15 “(II) denying the application; or

16 “(ii) inform the applicant that addi-  
17 tional time is needed to review the applica-  
18 tion, including by providing notifications of  
19 the need for additional time at least once  
20 every 180 days until the waiver is granted  
21 or the application is denied.”; and

22 (2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the  
23 following:

24 “(3) STATEMENT OF REASONS.—The Secretary  
25 shall state in an order issued under this subsection

1 that is publicly posted on the website of the Pipeline  
2 and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration the  
3 reasons for granting or denying the waiver.”.

## 4 **TITLE III—STREAMLINING** 5 **OVERSIGHT OF PIPELINES**

### 6 **SEC. 301. REGULATORY UPDATES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the PIPES Act of  
8 2020 (Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2220) is amend-  
9 ed—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1)—

12 (i) by striking “a final” and inserting  
13 “A final”; and

14 (ii) by striking “that has not been  
15 published in the Federal Register;” and in-  
16 serting a period;

17 (B) in paragraph (2)—

18 (i) by striking “a final” and inserting  
19 “A final”; and

20 (ii) by striking “that has not been  
21 published in the Federal Register; and”  
22 and inserting a period;

23 (C) in paragraph (3)—

24 (i) by striking “any other” and insert-  
25 ing “Any other”; and

1 (ii) by striking “that has not been  
2 published in the Federal Register”;

3 (D) by redesignating paragraphs (1)  
4 through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C),  
5 respectively, and indenting appropriately;

6 (E) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(D) A final rule required to be issued  
8 under the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025.”;

9 and

10 (F) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
11 (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “In this  
12 section, the term ‘outstanding mandate’  
13 means—” and inserting the following:

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term  
15 ‘outstanding mandate’ means a final rule described  
16 in paragraph (2) that—

17 “(A) is required to be issued by the Sec-  
18 retary (including any subordinate of the Sec-  
19 retary); and

20 “(B) has not been published in the Federal  
21 Register.

22 “(2) FINAL RULE DESCRIBED.—A final rule re-  
23 ferred to in paragraph (1) is any of the following:”;

24 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “referred to  
25 in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a) is

1 published in the Federal Register” and inserting  
2 “described in subsection (a)(2) is published in the  
3 Federal Register with respect to the applicable out-  
4 standing mandate”; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(d) REQUIRED BRIEFING.—If the Secretary fails to  
7 update the website as required under subsection (b)(1),  
8 an appropriate employee of the Administration shall pro-  
9 vide an in-person briefing to the relevant committees of  
10 Congress every 30 days until the requirements of that sub-  
11 section are met.

12 “(e) OPTIONAL BRIEFING.—Annually, the Adminis-  
13 trator shall offer to provide a briefing, by the Adminis-  
14 trator or a designee, to the relevant committees of Con-  
15 gress on the status of outstanding mandates.

16 “(f) RESTRICTION OF FUNDS.—If a requirement of  
17 subsection (b) is not met for over 90 days, no funds au-  
18 thorized or appropriated may be used to support travel  
19 for the Administrator or the Deputy Administrator of the  
20 Administration, unless necessary for the response to or in-  
21 vestigation of a pipeline or hazardous materials incident.”.

22 (b) DEADLINE NONCOMPLIANCE.—

23 (1) BRIEFINGS.—If the Secretary does not  
24 complete a requirement described in paragraph (2)  
25 by the deadline established by statute for the com-

1       pletion of that requirement, the Administrator shall  
 2       brief the appropriate committees of Congress in per-  
 3       son on the status of the requirement—

4               (A) not later than 7 days after the applica-  
 5       ble deadline; and

6               (B) every 90 days thereafter until the Sec-  
 7       retary completes the requirement.

8       (2) REQUIREMENTS.—A requirement referred  
 9       to in paragraph (1) is any of the following:

10              (A) The rulemaking required under section  
 11       60143(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, re-  
 12       lating to idled pipelines.

13              (B) The issuance of a final rule with re-  
 14       spect to the regulations required under section  
 15       60102(q)(1) of title 49, United States Code, re-  
 16       lating to gas pipeline leak detection and repair  
 17       programs.

18   **SEC. 302. STATE USE OF INTEGRATED INSPECTIONS.**

19       Section 60105 of title 49, United States Code, is  
 20       amended by adding at the end the following:

21       “(g) STATE USE OF INTEGRATED INSPECTIONS.—

22              “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

23              “(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
 24       GRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of  
 25       Congress’ has the meaning given the term in

1 section 2 of the PIPELINE Safety Act of  
2 2025.

3 “(B) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The term  
4 ‘Inspector General’ means the Inspector Gen-  
5 eral of the Department of Transportation.

6 “(C) RISK-BASED INTEGRATED INSPEC-  
7 TION PROGRAM.—The term ‘risk-based inte-  
8 grated inspection program’ means an inspection  
9 program that uses risk information and data to  
10 focus inspection resources on pipeline facilities  
11 and regulatory requirements that have the high-  
12 est priority during an inspection.

13 “(2) AUTHORIZATION.—Subject to all other ap-  
14 plicable provisions of this section, with the written  
15 agreement of the Secretary and a State authority  
16 certified under this section, which may be in the  
17 form of a memorandum of understanding, the Sec-  
18 retary may authorize, and the State authority may  
19 carry out, a risk-based integrated inspection pro-  
20 gram.

21 “(3) PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE RE-  
22 QUIREMENTS.—A State authority that is authorized  
23 to carry out a risk-based integrated inspection pro-  
24 gram—

1           “(A) shall be subject to the same proce-  
2           dural and substantive requirements that would  
3           apply if the Secretary were carrying out the  
4           program; and

5           “(B) shall ensure—

6                   “(i) that no pipeline system goes with-  
7                   out inspection for more than 5 years; and

8                   “(ii) that unsatisfactory conditions  
9                   found in inspections are addressed in a  
10                  timely manner.

11           “(4) APPLICATION AND CRITERIA.—Not later  
12           than 1 year after the date of enactment of this sub-  
13           section, the Secretary shall establish procedures and  
14           criteria for State authorities to apply to carry out a  
15           risk-based integrated inspection program pursuant  
16           to this subsection.

17           “(5) EVALUATION TIMELINE.—

18                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
19                   after receiving an application from a State au-  
20                   thority to carry out a risk-based integrated in-  
21                   spection program under this subsection, the  
22                   Secretary shall—

23                           “(i) review the application; and

24                           “(ii) approve or deny the application.

1           “(B) EXPLANATION OF DENIAL.—If the  
2 Secretary denies an application submitted by a  
3 State authority under this subsection, the Sec-  
4 retary shall provide an explanation to the State  
5 authority of—

6           “(i) why the Secretary denied the ap-  
7 plication; and

8           “(ii) changes that the State authority  
9 could make to the application that would  
10 result in the Secretary approving the appli-  
11 cation.

12           “(6) REVIEW OF PROGRAMS.—

13           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
14 establish a process to review the implementation  
15 of a risk-based integrated inspection program  
16 by a State authority.

17           “(B) REVIEW BY INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

18           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector  
19 General shall—

20           “(I) review each risk-based inte-  
21 grated inspection program authorized  
22 by the Secretary under this subsection  
23 not later than 3 years after the date  
24 on which the relevant application is  
25 approved to determine whether the

1 program meets the needs of pipeline  
2 safety; and

3 “(II) submit to the Secretary and  
4 the appropriate committees of Con-  
5 gress a report on that review.

6 “(ii) REQUIREMENT.—If the Inspector  
7 General determines that a risk-based inte-  
8 grated inspection program is not adequate  
9 and should be terminated, the Inspector  
10 General shall notify the Secretary and the  
11 appropriate committees of Congress.

12 “(7) TERMINATION.—

13 “(A) TERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—  
14 The Secretary may terminate an authorization  
15 for a State authority to carry out a risk-based  
16 integrated inspection program if—

17 “(i) the Secretary determines that the  
18 State authority is not adequately carrying  
19 out the program;

20 “(ii) the Secretary provides to the  
21 State authority—

22 “(I) a notification of the intent of  
23 the Secretary to terminate the author-  
24 ization for the State authority to

1 carry out a risk-based integrated in-  
2 spection program;

3 “(II) a period of not less than  
4 120 days to take such corrective ac-  
5 tion as the Secretary determines to be  
6 necessary to comply with the require-  
7 ments of this section; and

8 “(III) on request of the State au-  
9 thority, a detailed description of the  
10 aspects of the program that are inad-  
11 equate; and

12 “(iii) the State authority, after the  
13 notification described in clause (ii)(I), fails  
14 to take satisfactory corrective action in ac-  
15 cordance with clause (ii)(II) before the ex-  
16 piration of the period provided under that  
17 clause.

18 “(B) TERMINATION BY A STATE AUTHOR-  
19 ITY.—A State authority may terminate its au-  
20 thority to carry out a risk-based integrated in-  
21 spection program at any time by providing to  
22 the Secretary a notice not later than 90 days  
23 before the date of termination.”.

24 **SEC. 303. OPTIMIZING PIPELINE SAFETY INSPECTIONS.**

25 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) OFFICE.—The term “office” means a re-  
2           gional office, district office, and any other office of  
3           the Administration serving a particular region.

4           (2) REGION.—The term “region” means a re-  
5           gion for which a regional office of the Administra-  
6           tion has been established.

7           (3) STATE PARTNERS.—The term “State part-  
8           ners” means the State authorities described in sub-  
9           paragraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (b)(1).

10          (b) STUDY.—

11           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of  
12           the United States shall conduct a study to evaluate  
13           enforcement actions and the inspection scheduling  
14           and coordination practices and procedures used by—

15                   (A) the Administration;

16                   (B) State authorities certified under sec-  
17           tion 60105 of title 49, United States Code; and

18                   (C) State authorities with which the Sec-  
19           retary has made an agreement under section  
20           60106(a) of that title.

21           (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study under para-  
22           graph (1) shall—

23                   (A) identify ways in which the Administra-  
24           tion and States may coordinate with each other  
25           for more effective inspections and enforcement;

1 (B) evaluate the extent of any—

2 (i) substantive overlap of inspections  
3 carried out by the Administration and the  
4 State partners, such that the Administra-  
5 tion and the State partners are inspecting  
6 the same operator programs and proce-  
7 dures multiple times in the same annual or  
8 biennial period;

9 (ii) substantive overlap of inspections  
10 carried out by offices in different regions,  
11 such that offices in multiple regions are in-  
12 specting the same operator programs and  
13 procedures multiple times in the same an-  
14 nual or biennial period;

15 (iii) coordination among offices in dif-  
16 ferent regions on inspection findings relat-  
17 ing to an operator before the Administra-  
18 tion decides to take any enforcement or  
19 other action against that operator;

20 (iv) coordination among offices in dif-  
21 ferent regions and between the Administra-  
22 tion and State partners on the scheduling  
23 and scoping of inspections of operators to  
24 avoid substantive overlaps;

1 (v) resolution processes for operators  
2 in cases in which offices in different re-  
3 gions, or the Administration and State  
4 partners, take different interpretive posi-  
5 tions on the same compliance issue or op-  
6 erator program; and

7 (vi) opportunities—

8 (I) to reduce substantive unnec-  
9 essary overlaps (in the process of  
10 which the Comptroller General of the  
11 United States shall identify and de-  
12 scribe any overlaps that the Comp-  
13 troller the believes are necessary);

14 (II) to avoid inconsistent inter-  
15 pretations—

16 (aa) by offices in different  
17 regions; and

18 (bb) between the Adminis-  
19 tration and State partners;

20 (III) to optimize inspection  
21 scheduling and coordination; and

22 (IV) to improve compliance with  
23 Federal pipeline safety laws; and

1           (C) review the Federal enforcement process  
2           for its ability to fairly ensure compliance with  
3           Federal pipeline safety laws.

4       (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
5 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the  
6 United States shall submit to the appropriate committees  
7 of Congress a report that describes the results of the study  
8 conducted under subsection (b), which shall include rec-  
9 ommendations that the Administrator could adopt to bet-  
10 ter coordinate inspection practices and procedures with  
11 State partners, and between State partners, to address de-  
12 ficiencies identified under subsection (b)(2)—

13           (1) without compromising pipeline safety; and

14           (2) while improving the enforcement process.

15       (d) SUMMARY OF PIPELINE INSPECTIONS.—Not later  
16 than June 1 of each year beginning after the date of en-  
17 actment of this Act, the Administrator shall make avail-  
18 able to the public in an electronically accessible format a  
19 summary of Federal and State pipeline inspections con-  
20 ducted under direct or delegated authority under title 49,  
21 United States Code, during the previous calendar year, in-  
22 cluding—

23           (1) the date of the inspection;

24           (2) the name of the pipeline owner or operator;

25           (3) the pipeline system or segment inspected;



1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter  
2 into an agreement with a National Laboratory (as  
3 defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of  
4 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801))—

5           (A) to conduct a study of the safety, tech-  
6 nical, and practical considerations relating to  
7 the blending of hydrogen into existing natural  
8 gas systems;

9           (B) to issue a report on the results of that  
10 study, in accordance with paragraph (2); and

11           (C) to make recommendations to the Sec-  
12 retary for how to avoid or minimize any risks  
13 identified under paragraph (2)(C).

14           (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study  
15 under paragraph (1), the following factors shall be  
16 taken into consideration:

17           (A) Systems that utilize a hydrogen con-  
18 tent above 5 percent to determine if there are  
19 additional restrictions or requirements for the  
20 processes, materials, and standards that the op-  
21 erators of those systems have implemented to  
22 operate those systems safely.

23           (B) Remaining knowledge gaps, if any, re-  
24 lating to safely moving hydrogen-methane

1 blends through existing natural gas distribution  
2 systems.

3 (C) Safety risks, if any, of hydrogen-meth-  
4 ane blends composed of over 5 percent hydro-  
5 gen in existing natural gas distribution systems,  
6 including—

7 (i) leak rates of hydrogen-methane  
8 blends;

9 (ii) the performance of hydrogen-  
10 methane blends in existing residential,  
11 commercial, and industrial infrastructure;  
12 and

13 (iii) underground migration of leaked  
14 hydrogen-methane blends.

15 (D) Any relevant findings or recommenda-  
16 tions of—

17 (i) the HyBlend research and develop-  
18 ment initiative commenced by the Depart-  
19 ment of Energy in 2021 for the purpose of  
20 addressing opportunities for hydrogen  
21 blending in natural gas pipelines; and

22 (ii) the study on hydrogen blending  
23 commissioned by the California Public  
24 Utilities Commission and carried out by  
25 the University of California, Riverside, en-

1                   titled “Hydrogen Blending Impacts  
2                   Study”.

3           (3) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to  
4           the appropriate committees of Congress the report  
5           prepared under paragraph (1)(B).

6           (b) GAO REPORT.—

7           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
8           the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller  
9           General of the United States shall conduct a study  
10          on existing natural gas distribution systems that uti-  
11          lize hydrogen-natural gas blending applications, or  
12          utilize gas with a higher hydrogen content, to iden-  
13          tify processes, materials, and standards that opera-  
14          tors have implemented to operate those systems  
15          safely.

16          (2) REQUIREMENT.—The study conducted  
17          under paragraph (1) shall include an examination of  
18          natural gas distribution systems currently operating  
19          in—

20                   (A) the United States;

21                   (B) Canada;

22                   (C) Europe;

23                   (D) Australia;

24                   (E) Hong Kong; and

1 (F) any other appropriate location, as de-  
2 termined by the Comptroller General of the  
3 United States.

4 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study  
5 under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the  
6 United States shall consider systems that utilize a  
7 hydrogen content above 5 percent to determine if  
8 there are additional restrictions or requirements for  
9 the processes, materials, and standards that the op-  
10 erators of those systems have implemented to oper-  
11 ate those systems safely.

12 (c) REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
14 completion of the studies under subsections (a) and  
15 (b), the Secretary shall determine whether any up-  
16 dates to regulations are necessary to ensure the  
17 safety of natural gas distribution systems inten-  
18 tionally blending hydrogen at levels exceeding 5 per-  
19 cent.

20 (2) REQUIREMENT.—If the Secretary deter-  
21 mines that updates to regulations are not necessary,  
22 the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate com-  
23 mittees of Congress a report that describes the rea-  
24 sons for that determination.

25 (d) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section—

1 (1) authorizes the removal of the exemption for  
2 certain hydrogen pipelines described in section  
3 192.625(b)(4) of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-  
4 tions (as in effect on October 1, 2023); or

5 (2) affects—

6 (A) the authority of the Secretary under—

7 (i) section 60112 of title 49, United  
8 States Code; or

9 (ii) subsection (m) or (p) of section  
10 60117 of that title; or

11 (B) the authority of the Secretary to pre-  
12 scribe standards otherwise affecting the trans-  
13 portation of hydrogen by pipelines.

14 **SEC. 402. SAFETY OF CARBON DIOXIDE PIPELINES.**

15 (a) MINIMUM SAFETY STANDARDS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after  
17 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
18 shall publish in the Federal Register a final rule  
19 pursuant to the rulemaking proceeding with Regula-  
20 tion Identifier Number 2137–AF60 after providing  
21 an opportunity for comment to ensure the safety of  
22 all phases of carbon dioxide transported in pipelines,  
23 including carbon dioxide in gaseous, liquid, and  
24 supercritical states.

25 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Any standard adopted  
2 by the final rule required under paragraph (1)  
3 shall—

4 (i) include appropriate requirements  
5 addressing updates to emergency response  
6 plans to address any risks unique to car-  
7 bon dioxide pipeline accidents or incidents;

8 (ii) include minimum safety standards  
9 applicable to each operator of a pipeline fa-  
10 cility by which carbon dioxide is trans-  
11 ported, including performing vapor disper-  
12 sion modeling to identify high consequence  
13 areas that could be affected by a release  
14 from such a pipeline facility;

15 (iii) clarify that carbon dioxide shall  
16 not be used as a testing medium for spike  
17 hydrostatic pressure testing; and

18 (iv) require carbon dioxide pipeline  
19 operators to provide information to State,  
20 local, and Tribal emergency response orga-  
21 nizations (in each jurisdiction in which a  
22 carbon dioxide pipeline facility of the oper-  
23 ator is located) on any risks unique to car-  
24 bon dioxide pipeline accidents or incidents,  
25 including by making relevant portions of

1 emergency response plans available to first  
2 responders on request.

3 (B) VAPOR DISPERSION MODELING.—

4 Vapor dispersion modeling under subparagraph

5 (A)(ii) shall consider—

6 (i) the topography surrounding the  
7 pipeline facility;

8 (ii) atmospheric conditions that could  
9 affect vapor dispersion; and

10 (iii) pipeline facility operating charac-  
11 teristics.

12 (C) CONSIDERATIONS.—Any standard  
13 adopted by the final rule required under para-  
14 graph (1) shall consider—

15 (i) conversion of service standards;  
16 and

17 (ii) safety-related condition reporting  
18 and leak reporting appropriate to any  
19 unique safety risks associated with carbon  
20 dioxide.

21 (b) EFFECT.—Completion of the rulemaking required  
22 under subsection (a) shall satisfy the rulemaking require-  
23 ment under section 60102(i)(2) of title 49, United States  
24 Code.

25 (c) ODORANT.—

1           (1) **STUDY.**—The Secretary shall enter into an  
2 agreement with a National Laboratory (as defined in  
3 section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42  
4 U.S.C. 15801)) to study the feasibility of adding  
5 odorant to carbon dioxide pipelines.

6           (2) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the  
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
8 submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a  
9 report describing the feasibility of adding odorant to  
10 carbon dioxide pipelines.

11          (d) **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.**—The Secretary shall  
12 make available, on request, to relevant emergency re-  
13 sponders information that is tailored specifically to carbon  
14 dioxide pipeline releases, including information on the po-  
15 tential impact area and any relevant odorants.

16 **SEC. 403. REPORTING OF BLENDED PRODUCTS.**

17          (a) **IN GENERAL.**—All operators of natural gas pipe-  
18 lines shall report to the Secretary non-predominant prod-  
19 ucts intentionally blended and intended to exceed, at any  
20 point in time, 2 percent by volume of the product trans-  
21 ported by the pipeline.

22          (b) **FREQUENCY.**—Reports under subsection (a) shall  
23 be required not more frequently than annually.

1 **TITLE V—IMPROVING EMER-**  
2 **GENCY RESPONSE AND**  
3 **TRANSPARENCY**

4 **SEC. 501. BITUMEN OIL RESPONSE PLAN REVIEW.**

5 (a) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than  
6 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspec-  
7 tor General of the Department of Transportation shall re-  
8 view—

9 (1) the findings of the study required under  
10 section 16 of the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Cer-  
11 tainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 (Public Law  
12 112–90; 125 Stat. 1915); and

13 (2) the oil spill response plans required under  
14 part 194 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or  
15 successor regulations), for operators transporting di-  
16 luted bitumen oil.

17 (b) PURPOSE.—The review under subsection (a) shall  
18 determine the extent to which the response plans required  
19 under part 194 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations  
20 (or successor regulations)—

21 (1) identify, using industry-standard names, all  
22 of the crude oils transported by the operator, includ-  
23 ing diluted bitumen;

24 (2) include safety data sheets for each of the  
25 crude oils identified in the response plan;

1           (3) describe the geographic areas most sensitive  
2           to the effects of a diluted bitumen spill, including  
3           the water bodies potentially at risk;

4           (4) describe the response activities planned and  
5           resources available to mitigate the impacts of spills  
6           of diluted bitumen, if applicable, including the capa-  
7           bilities of the operator for detection, containment,  
8           and recovery of submerged and sunken oil;

9           (5) specify the procedures by which the oper-  
10          ator shall provide to the applicable On-Scene Coordi-  
11          nator (as defined in section 194.5 of title 49, Code  
12          of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)) or  
13          an equivalent State official relevant response infor-  
14          mation; and

15          (6) include all spill-relevant properties and con-  
16          siderations with respect to each crude oil trans-  
17          ported by the operator and identified in the response  
18          plan in accordance with paragraph (1).

19          (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after com-  
20          pleting the review under subsection (a), the Inspector Gen-  
21          eral of the Department of Transportation shall submit to  
22          the appropriate committees of Congress a report that sum-  
23          marizes the findings of that review and contains any rec-  
24          ommendations of the Inspector General.

1 **SEC. 502. NATIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR HAZ-**  
2 **ARDOUS LIQUID PIPELINE LEAK DETECTION.**

3 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—After submitting the report  
4 under subsection (c) to the committees of Congress de-  
5 scribed in that subsection, and subject to the availability  
6 of funds appropriated by Congress for the applicable pur-  
7 pose, the Secretary, in consultation with hazardous liquid  
8 pipeline sector stakeholders, may establish a center, to be  
9 known as the “National Center of Excellence for Haz-  
10 arduous Liquid Pipeline Leak Detection” (referred to in  
11 this section as the “Center of Excellence”).

12 (b) **LOCATION.**—The Center of Excellence shall be lo-  
13 cated—

14 (1) within the Great Lakes Basin;

15 (2) in a State that hosts an international  
16 mixed-use pipeline that transports crude oil and nat-  
17 ural gas liquids where the pipeline crosses through  
18 the Great Lakes; and

19 (3) in close proximity to an institution of higher  
20 education with adequate capabilities, experience, and  
21 expertise in researching and evaluating pipeline safe-  
22 ty, including pipeline risk analyses.

23 (c) **REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT.**—

24 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months  
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
26 retary shall submit to the Committees on Commerce,

1 Science, and Transportation and Appropriations of  
2 the Senate and the Committees on Transportation  
3 and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, and Ap-  
4 propriations of the House of Representatives a re-  
5 port that describes—

6 (A) the resources necessary to establish the  
7 Center of Excellence; and

8 (B) the manner in which the Center of Ex-  
9 cellence will carry out the functions described in  
10 subsection (d).

11 (2) REQUIREMENT.—The report under para-  
12 graph (1) shall include an estimate of all potential  
13 costs and appropriations necessary to carry out the  
14 functions described in subsection (d).

15 (d) FUNCTIONS.—The Center of Excellence shall—

16 (1) review the availability of leak detection tech-  
17 nology for hazardous liquid pipelines that can detect  
18 leaks at very low volumes;

19 (2) conduct research into the operational, eco-  
20 nomic, and technical feasibility of incorporating  
21 technologies reviewed under paragraph (1) into pipe-  
22 line systems;

23 (3) be a repository of information on best prac-  
24 tices relating to, and expertise on, hazardous liquid  
25 leak detection; and

1           (4) perform other duties, as determined by the  
2       Secretary, to improve leak detection for hazardous  
3       liquid pipelines.

4       (e) **JOINT OPERATION WITH EDUCATIONAL INSTITU-**  
5 **TION.**—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with  
6 an institution of higher education described in subsection  
7 (b)(3)—

8           (1) to provide for joint operation of the Center  
9       of Excellence; and

10          (2) to provide necessary administrative services  
11       for the Center of Excellence.

12       (f) **REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date  
13 on which the Center of Excellence is established under  
14 subsection (a), the Center of Excellence shall submit to  
15 the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the  
16 findings of the Center of Excellence with respect to leak  
17 detection technologies that can detect leaks at very low  
18 volumes.

19 **SEC. 503. OPERATOR FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.**

20       Not later than 7 calendar days after the date on  
21 which an operator of a pipeline facility (as defined in sec-  
22 tion 60101(a) of title 49, United States Code) files a peti-  
23 tion for relief under chapter 7 or 11 of title 11, United  
24 States Code, the operator shall notify the Secretary of that  
25 filing.

1 **SEC. 504. DATA AND TRANSPARENCY.**

2 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
3 of this Act, and not less frequently than annually there-  
4 after, the Secretary shall publish, on a publicly accessible  
5 website, summary data pertaining to pipeline leaks re-  
6 quired to be reported by operators in the annual reports  
7 submitted to the Administration by the operators.

8 **SEC. 505. OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.**

9 Section 108 of title 49, United States Code, is  
10 amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “(referred to  
12 in this section as the ‘Administration’)” after “Safe-  
13 ty Administration”;

14 (2) in subsection (c), in the first sentence, by  
15 inserting “(referred to in this section as the ‘Admin-  
16 istrator’),” after “shall be the Administrator”; and

17 (3) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(h) OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.—

19 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

20 “(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
21 GRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of  
22 Congress’ has the meaning given the term in  
23 section 2 of the PIPELINE Safety Act of  
24 2025.

25 “(B) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’  
26 means the Director of the Office.

1           “(C) OFFICE.—The term ‘Office’ means  
2           the Office of Public Engagement of the Admin-  
3           istration established under paragraph (2).

4           “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year  
5           after the date of enactment of this subsection, the  
6           Administrator shall establish within the Administra-  
7           tion an office, to be known as the ‘Office of Public  
8           Engagement’.

9           “(3) DIRECTOR.—The Office shall be headed by  
10          a Director, who shall—

11                 “(A) report to the Associate Administrator  
12                 for Pipeline Safety; and

13                 “(B) be responsible for the discharge of  
14                 the functions and duties of the Office.

15          “(4) EMPLOYEES.—The Director shall—

16                 “(A) appoint and assign the duties of em-  
17                 ployees of the Office; and

18                 “(B) prioritize the hiring of individuals  
19                 who have experience in community engagement,  
20                 including working with the public, State, local  
21                 and Tribal governments, and pipeline safety  
22                 public interest groups.

23          “(5) COMMUNITY LIAISONS.—The Director  
24          shall appoint agency community liaison personnel

1 employed as of the date on which the Office is estab-  
2 lished as employees of the Office.

3 “(6) DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE OF-  
4 FICE.—

5 “(A) COORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE.—

6 The Director shall coordinate the provision of  
7 technical assistance and educational assistance  
8 to the public with respect to the authorities ex-  
9 ercised by the Administration.

10 “(B) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.—The Direc-  
11 tor shall coordinate active and ongoing engage-  
12 ment with the public with respect to the author-  
13 ity and activities of the Administration, includ-  
14 ing by—

15 “(i) conducting—

16 “(I) outreach, which may include  
17 public postings, signage at relevant  
18 physical locations, newspaper publica-  
19 tions, mailings, phone calls, can-  
20 vassing, and door hangers, to commu-  
21 nities using varied media; and

22 “(II) when appropriate, meetings;

23 “(ii) assisting individuals in resolving  
24 pipeline safety inquiries;

1           “(iii) making publicly available, and  
2           disseminating, information on the manner  
3           in which members of the public may file  
4           inquiries relating to pipeline safety;

5           “(iv) assisting individuals in con-  
6           tacting, as necessary, the Federal Energy  
7           Regulatory Commission, State agencies,  
8           and other agencies, in order to appro-  
9           priately direct public inquiries that are not  
10          within the jurisdiction of the Administra-  
11          tion to the relevant agency; and

12          “(v) preparing, and making publicly  
13          available in accessible formats, educational  
14          materials about the Administration, the re-  
15          sponsibilities of the Administration, and  
16          how those responsibilities interact with en-  
17          tities under the jurisdiction of the Admin-  
18          istration and other Federal, State, local, or  
19          Tribal government agencies.”.

20 **SEC. 506. CLARIFICATION OF CONFIRMED DISCOVERY.**

21          (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
22          date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

23                  (1) review—

24                          (A) the definition of confirmed discovery  
25                          used by the Administration for purposes of the

1 reporting of accidents and incidents to the Na-  
2 tional Response Center and the Secretary (in-  
3 cluding any regulations promulgated under sec-  
4 tion 9 of the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Cer-  
5 tainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 (49  
6 U.S.C. 60117 note; Public Law 112–90)), es-  
7 tablishing communication with first responders  
8 and other relevant public officials, providing im-  
9 mediate notice to the National Response Center  
10 as described in section 191.5 and 195.52 of  
11 title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or any  
12 successor regulations), and any other relevant  
13 purposes; and

14 (B) for each initial notice of an accident or  
15 incident submitted to the National Response  
16 Center telephonically or electronically under  
17 section 191.5 or 195.52 of title 49, Code of  
18 Federal Regulations, during the 5-year period  
19 ending on the date of enactment of this Act—

20 (i) the time between the first signs of  
21 an accident or incident and the time at  
22 which operators determined that the acci-  
23 dent or incident met the definition of con-  
24 firmed discovery;

1 (ii) the methods that operators used  
2 to confirm that an accident or incident met  
3 that definition; and

4 (iii) the time that it took for operators  
5 to report an accident or incident after con-  
6 firming that the accident or incident met  
7 that definition; and

8 (2) submit to the appropriate committees of  
9 Congress a report that provides the findings of the  
10 review under paragraph (1), including the details de-  
11 scribed in subparagraph (B) of that paragraph for  
12 each accident or incident.

13 (b) CIVIL PENALTY CONSIDERATIONS.—Section  
14 60122(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

15 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at  
16 the end;

17 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at  
18 the end; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(E) the timeliness of emergency response  
21 notification, including by reducing penalties for  
22 cases in which incidents are reported within 10  
23 minutes of a suspected release; and

24 “(F) advanced coordination with State,  
25 local, Tribal, and territorial governmental enti-

1 ties resulting in the relevant and timely use of  
2 existing public alert notification systems; and”.

3 **SEC. 507. PUBLIC ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR PIPE-**  
4 **LINE FACILITIES.**

5 (a) PUBLIC ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.—The  
6 Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the  
7 Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall develop  
8 voluntary guidance to assist owners and operators of pipe-  
9 line facilities with coordinating with State, local, Tribal,  
10 and territorial governmental entities to make use of exist-  
11 ing public alert notification systems, such as the Inte-  
12 grated Public Alert and Warning System of the Federal  
13 Emergency Management Agency described in section 526  
14 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321o)  
15 to issue emergency alerts and appropriate guidance via  
16 mobile phones, radio, or television in a locally targeted  
17 area in the event of a pipeline emergency.

18 (b) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS.—Any procedures  
19 established by an operator under subsection (a) shall be  
20 incorporated into the response plans maintained by the op-  
21 erator under sections 60102(d)(5) and 60138 of title 49,  
22 United States Code.

# **TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS**

**SEC. 601. PROHIBITION ON PHMSA OPERATION, PROCUREMENT, OR CONTRACTING ACTION WITH RESPECT TO COVERED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 448 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“§ 44815. Prohibition on PHMSA operation, procurement, or contracting action with respect to covered unmanned aircraft systems**

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term ‘Administration’ means the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

“(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the Administration.

“(3) COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term ‘covered foreign country’ means any of the following:

“(A) The People’s Republic of China.

“(B) The Russian Federation.

“(C) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

“(D) The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

1           “(E) The Bolivarian Republic of Ven-  
2           ezuela.

3           “(F) The Republic of Cuba.

4           “(4) COVERED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYS-  
5           TEM.—The term ‘covered unmanned aircraft system’  
6           means an unmanned aircraft system that is, or is  
7           owned by an entity that is—

8                   “(A) included on the Consolidated Screen-  
9                   ing List or Entity List as designated by the  
10                  Secretary of Commerce;

11                   “(B) domiciled in a covered foreign coun-  
12                  try; or

13                   “(C) subject to influence or control by the  
14                  government of a covered foreign country.

15           “(b) RESTRICTIONS.—Subject to subsection (c), the  
16           Administrator shall not—

17                   “(1) operate a covered unmanned aircraft sys-  
18                  tem; or

19                   “(2) enter into, extend, or renew a contract—

20                           “(A) for the procurement of a covered un-  
21                          manned aircraft system; or

22                           “(B) with an entity that operates (as de-  
23                          termined by the Secretary of Transportation) a  
24                          covered unmanned aircraft system in the per-  
25                          formance of any Administration contract.

1       “(c) EXEMPTION.—The restrictions under subsection  
2 (b) shall not apply if the operation, procurement, or con-  
3 tracting action is for the purpose of intelligence, electronic  
4 warfare, and information warfare operations, testing,  
5 analysis, and training.

6       “(d) WAIVER.—The Administrator may waive the re-  
7 strictions under subsection (b) on a case by case basis by  
8 certifying, in writing, to the Secretary of Homeland Secu-  
9 rity and the appropriate committees of Congress that the  
10 operation, procurement, or contracting action is required  
11 in the public interest of the United States.

12       “(e) REPLACEMENT OF COVERED UNMANNED AIR-  
13 CRAFT SYSTEMS.—Subject to available appropriations,  
14 not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this  
15 section, the Administrator shall replace any covered un-  
16 manned aircraft system that is owned or operated by the  
17 Administration as of that date of enactment with an un-  
18 manned aircraft system manufactured in the United  
19 States or an allied country (as defined in section 2350f(d)  
20 of title 10).

21       “(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180  
22 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Ad-  
23 ministrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of  
24 Congress a report that includes—

1           “(1) a description of the changes the Adminis-  
2           tration has made to its operation, procurement, and  
3           contracting processes to ensure that the Administra-  
4           tion does not acquire any covered unmanned aircraft  
5           system;

6           “(2) the number of covered unmanned aircraft  
7           systems that needed to be replaced in accordance  
8           with subsection (e), including—

9                   “(A) an explanation of the purposes for  
10                  which such covered unmanned aircraft systems  
11                  were used;

12                  “(B) a description of the unmanned air-  
13                  craft systems that the Administrator will pur-  
14                  chase to replace such covered unmanned air-  
15                  craft systems; and

16                  “(C) the cost to purchase the unmanned  
17                  aircraft systems described in subparagraph (B);  
18                  and

19           “(3) any other information determined appro-  
20           priate by the Administrator.”.

21           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-  
22           ter 448 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by  
23           inserting after the item relating to section 44814 the fol-  
24           lowing:

“44815. Prohibition on PHMSA operation, procurement, or contracting action  
with respect to covered unmanned aircraft systems.”.

1 **SEC. 602. NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION PIPELINE INFRA-**  
2 **STRUCTURE SAFETY AND MODERNIZATION**  
3 **GRANTS.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may provide grants  
5 to assist publicly owned natural gas distribution pipeline  
6 systems in repairing, rehabilitating, or replacing pipeline  
7 systems to improve pipeline safety.

8 (b) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—An entity eligible to re-  
9 ceive a grant under this section is a utility that—

10 (1) is owned by a community or municipality;

11 and

12 (2) is not a for-profit entity.

13 (c) **APPLICATIONS.**—An eligible entity desiring a  
14 grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an  
15 application at such time, in such manner, and containing  
16 such information as the Secretary may require, including  
17 a description of the projects or activities proposed to be  
18 funded by the grant.

19 (d) **USES.**—A grant provided under this section may  
20 be used—

21 (1) to repair, rehabilitate, or replace a natural  
22 gas distribution pipeline system or portions of a nat-  
23 ural gas distribution pipeline system; or

24 (2) to acquire equipment for use in a repair, re-  
25 habilitation, or replacement project under paragraph

26 (1).

1 (e) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish  
2 procedures for awarding grants under this section that  
3 take into consideration—

4 (1) the risk profile of the existing pipeline sys-  
5 tem, including pipe material, operated by the appli-  
6 cant; and

7 (2) supporting communities that have limited  
8 ability to invest in the infrastructure of the commu-  
9 nity through increased utility rates due to economic  
10 conditions, including high poverty rates, high unem-  
11 ployment, or low median wages.

12 (f) LIMITATIONS.—

13 (1) AWARDS TO A SINGLE UTILITY.—The Sec-  
14 retary may not award more than 12.5 percent of the  
15 total amount made available to carry out this section  
16 in a single fiscal year to a single eligible entity de-  
17 scribed in subsection (b).

18 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more  
19 than 2 percent of the amounts appropriated under  
20 subsection (h)(1) for a fiscal year may be used by  
21 the Secretary for the administrative costs of car-  
22 rying out this section.

23 (3) COST SHARING.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
25 subparagraph (B), any grant provided by the

1 Secretary under this section shall not represent  
2 more than 50 percent of the actual total cost of  
3 the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement project  
4 for which the grant is provided.

5 (B) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a grant  
6 under this section for a project in an area with  
7 a population of less than 50,000 residents,  
8 based on the most recent decennial census, the  
9 Secretary may increase the grant share of the  
10 cost of the project under subparagraph (A) to  
11 not more than 80 percent.

12 (g) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than  
13 3 days before the date on which the Secretary publishes  
14 the selection of projects and activities for which a grant  
15 will be provided under this section, the Secretary shall  
16 submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
17 Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on  
18 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-  
19 resentatives a written notice that includes—

20 (1) a list of all applications reviewed by the  
21 Secretary as part of the selection process; and

22 (2) a report that describes each project or activ-  
23 ity for which a grant will be provided under this sec-  
24 tion for that round of selection.

25 (h) FUNDING.—

1           (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
2       There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
3       retary to carry out this section \$75,000,000 for each  
4       of fiscal years 2027 through 2030, to remain avail-  
5       able until expended.

6           (2) REQUIREMENT.—Any amounts used to  
7       carry out this section—

8                   (A) shall be derived from general revenues;

9                   and

10                   (B) shall not be derived from user fees col-  
11       lected under section 60301.

12 **SEC. 603. ISSUES AFFECTING FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED IN-**  
13 **DIAN TRIBES.**

14       (a) INDIAN AND TRIBAL DEFINITIONS.—Section  
15       60101 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by add-  
16       ing at the end the following:

17       “(c) INDIAN AND TRIBAL DEFINITIONS.—In this  
18       chapter:

19                   “(1) INDIAN LAND.—The term ‘Indian land’  
20       has the meaning given the term ‘Indian lands’ in  
21       section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25  
22       U.S.C. 2703).

23                   “(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’  
24       has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the

1 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
2 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).”.

3 (b) SAFETY STANDARDS AND REPORTS.—Section  
4 60102 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking “lo-  
6 cated,” and inserting “located and any affected In-  
7 dian Tribe”;

8 (2) in subsection (d)—

9 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
10 in the first sentence, by striking “and an appro-  
11 priate State official as determined by the Sec-  
12 retary” and inserting “, an appropriate State  
13 official (as determined by the Secretary), and  
14 an appropriate Tribal official (as determined by  
15 the Secretary) from any affected Indian Tribe”;

16 (B) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-  
17 ceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “or, with  
18 respect to an affected Indian Tribe, on affected  
19 Indian land,” after “location in the State”;

20 (C) in paragraph (5)—

21 (i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
22 “and Tribal officials from any affected In-  
23 dian Tribe” after “State and local authori-  
24 ties”; and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting  
2 “and Tribal officials from any affected In-  
3 dian Tribe” after “State and local offi-  
4 cials”; and

5 (D) in paragraph (6)—

6 (i) by inserting “or an affected Indian  
7 Tribe” after “inform a State”; and

8 (ii) by inserting “or on affected In-  
9 dian land” before the period at the end;

10 (3) in subsection (h)—

11 (A) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “the  
12 appropriate Tribe” and inserting “any affected  
13 Indian Tribe with respect to the location”; and

14 (B) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting “or  
15 Tribal official if no such commission or com-  
16 mittee exists” before the semicolon at the end;  
17 and

18 (4) in subsection (r)(1), in the matter preceding  
19 subparagraph (A), by inserting “, including Tribal  
20 officials” after “public officials”.

21 (c) INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE.—Section  
22 60108(c)(6)(C) of title 49, United States Code, is amend-  
23 ed, in the first sentence, by inserting “and Tribal officials  
24 from any affected Indian Tribe” after “to the Secretary”.

1 (d) HIGH-DENSITY POPULATION AREAS AND ENVI-  
2 RONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS.—Section 60109(e)(7)  
3 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking  
4 subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

5 “(C) DEADLINES.—

6 “(i) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN.—  
7 Not later than 2 years after the date of en-  
8 actment of the PIPELINE Safety Act of  
9 2025, each operator of a distribution sys-  
10 tem shall make available to the Secretary  
11 or the relevant State authority with a cer-  
12 tification in effect under section 60105, as  
13 applicable, and to any affected Indian  
14 Tribe, a copy of the emergency response  
15 plan under section 60102(d)(5).

16 “(ii) OTHER DOCUMENTS.—Not later  
17 than 2 years after the date of enactment  
18 of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025,  
19 each operator of a distribution system shall  
20 make available to the Secretary or the rel-  
21 evant State authority with a certification  
22 in effect under section 60105, as applica-  
23 ble, a copy of—

24 “(I) the distribution integrity  
25 management plan of the operator; and

1           “(II) the procedural manual for  
2           operations, maintenance, and emer-  
3           gencies under section 60102(d)(4).

4           “(iii) UPDATES.—Not later than 60  
5           days after the date of a significant update,  
6           as determined by the Secretary, to a plan  
7           or manual described in clause (i) or (ii),  
8           the operator of the applicable distribution  
9           system shall—

10           “(I) in the case of an emergency  
11           response plan described in clause (i),  
12           make available to the Secretary or  
13           make available for inspection to the  
14           relevant State authority described in  
15           that clause (if applicable), and make  
16           available for inspection to any affected  
17           Indian Tribe, an updated copy of the  
18           emergency response plan; and

19           “(II) in the case of a plan or  
20           manual described in clause (ii), make  
21           available to the Secretary or make  
22           available for inspection to the relevant  
23           State authority described in that  
24           clause (if applicable) an updated copy  
25           of the applicable plan or manual.

1                   “(iv) APPLICABILITY OF FOIA.—Noth-  
2                   ing in this subsection shall be construed to  
3                   authorize the disclosure of any information  
4                   that is exempt from disclosure under sec-  
5                   tion 552(b) of title 5.”.

6           (e) PIPELINE FACILITIES HAZARDOUS TO LIFE AND  
7 PROPERTY.—Section 60112(c) of title 49, United States  
8 Code, is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting  
9 “and a Tribal official from any affected Indian Tribe”  
10 after “affected local officials”.

11           (f) TECHNICAL SAFETY STANDARDS COMMITTEES.—  
12 Section 60115(b)(3)(A) of title 49, United States Code,  
13 is amended by striking “and of” and inserting “, Indian  
14 Tribes, and”.

15           (g) PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—Section  
16 60116(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

17                   (1) in the first sentence, by striking “Not later  
18                   than 12 months after the date of enactment of the  
19                   Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002” and in-  
20                   serting “Not later than 1 year after the date of en-  
21                   actment of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025”;  
22                   and

23                   (2) in the second sentence, by inserting “af-  
24                   fected Indian Tribes,” after “advise”.

1 (h) ADMINISTRATIVE.—Section 60117 of title 49,  
2 United States Code, is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting “and an  
4 appropriate Tribal official from any affected Indian  
5 Tribe” after “is located”;

6 (2) in subsection (i)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “Indian  
8 Tribes,” after “States,”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “Indian  
10 Tribes,” after “local governments,”;

11 (3) in subsection (l), in the first sentence, by  
12 inserting “Indian Tribes,” after “local govern-  
13 ment,”;

14 (4) in subsection (n)(1), by inserting “Indian  
15 Tribes,” after “the States,”; and

16 (5) in subsection (p)(2)(B), by inserting “In-  
17 dian Tribes,” after “State agencies,”.

18 (i) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Section 60119(a)(1) of title  
19 49, United States Code, is amended, in the first sentence,  
20 by inserting “, including an Indian Tribe,” before “ad-  
21 versely affected”.

22 (j) EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS.—Section  
23 60125(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended,  
24 in the first sentence, by inserting “, and affected Indian  
25 Tribes,” after “local governments”.

1 (k) NATIONAL PIPELINE MAPPING SYSTEM.—Sec-  
2 tion 60132 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (e), by striking “State and  
4 local” and inserting “State, local, and Tribal”; and

5 (2) in subsection (e), in the first sentence, by  
6 striking “State and local” and inserting “State,  
7 local, and Tribal”.

8 (l) COORDINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.—  
9 Section 60133 of title 49, United States Code, is amend-  
10 ed—

11 (1) in subsection (a)(5), by striking “and local”  
12 and inserting “, local, and Tribal”; and

13 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting “Tribal,”  
14 after “State,”.

15 **SEC. 604. IDENTIFICATION OF AND JUSTIFICATION FOR**  
16 **REDACTIONS.**

17 If the Administration redacts any portion of a docu-  
18 ment produced to another person, the Administration shall  
19 cite a specific statute authorizing the withholding of the  
20 information redacted.

21 **SEC. 605. FEES FOR LOAN GUARANTEES.**

22 Section 116(d) of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline  
23 Act (15 U.S.C. 720n(d)) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) by striking “(1) The Secretary” and  
2 inserting the following:

3 “(1) LOAN TERMS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

5 (B) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-  
6 ignated), in the second sentence, by striking  
7 “The term” and inserting the following:

8 “(B) DURATION.—The term”; and

9 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “(2) An eligi-  
10 ble” and inserting the following:

11 “(2) FEES.—

12 “(A) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding  
14 any other provision of law, the Secretary  
15 shall charge, and collect on or after the  
16 date of the financial close of an obligation,  
17 a fee for a guarantee in an amount that  
18 the Secretary determines is sufficient to  
19 cover applicable administrative expenses  
20 (including any costs associated with third-  
21 party consultants engaged by the Sec-  
22 retary).

23 “(ii) AVAILABILITY.—Fees collected  
24 under this paragraph shall—

1 “(I) be deposited by the Sec-  
2 retary into the Treasury; and

3 “(II) remain available to the Sec-  
4 retary, without further appropriation,  
5 until expended to cover applicable ad-  
6 ministrative expenses described in  
7 clause (i).

8 “(iii) REDUCTION IN FEE AMOUNT.—  
9 Notwithstanding clause (i), and subject to  
10 the availability of appropriations, the Sec-  
11 retary may reduce the amount of a fee for  
12 a guarantee under this subparagraph.

13 “(B) DEBT OBLIGATIONS.—An eligible”.

14 **SEC. 606. IMPROVING PIPELINE CYBERSECURITY.**

15 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment  
16 of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall pub-  
17 lish in the Federal Register a final rule pursuant to the  
18 rulemaking proceeding entitled “Enhancing Surface Cyber  
19 Risk Management” (Docket Number TSA–2022–0001;  
20 Regulation Identifier Number 1652–AA74) relating to the  
21 cybersecurity of pipelines.

22 **SEC. 607. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

23 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 60101(a) of title 49,  
24 United States Code (as amended by section 212(b)), is  
25 amended—

1 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
2 striking “chapter—” and inserting “chapter:”;

3 (2) in each of paragraphs (1) through (16),  
4 (18), (19), (20), (22) (23), (25), and (27), by strik-  
5 ing the semicolon at the end of the paragraph and  
6 inserting a period;

7 (3) in paragraph (1)—

8 (A) by striking the paragraph designation  
9 and all that follows through “(A) means” in  
10 subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

11 “(1) EXISTING LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS FA-  
12 CILITY.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘existing liq-  
14 uefied natural gas facility’ means”;

15 (B) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “;  
16 but” and inserting a period; and

17 (C) in subparagraph (B)—

18 (i) by striking “(B) does not” and in-  
19 serting the following:

20 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘existing  
21 liquefied natural gas facility’ does not”; and

22 (ii) by inserting “described in sub-  
23 paragraph (A)” after “approval”;

24 (4) in paragraph (14)—

1 (A) by striking the paragraph designation  
2 and all that follows through “(A) means” in  
3 subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

4 “(14) LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FA-  
5 CILITY.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘liquefied  
7 natural gas pipeline facility’ means”;

8 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;  
9 but” and inserting a period; and

10 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “(B)  
11 does not” and inserting the following:

12 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘liquefied  
13 natural gas pipeline facility’ does not”;

14 (5) in paragraph (24) (relating to the term  
15 “Secretary”), by striking “; and” and inserting a pe-  
16 riod;

17 (6) in paragraph (27)—

18 (A) by striking the paragraph designation  
19 and all that follows through “(A) means” in  
20 subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

21 “(27) TRANSPORTING HAZARDOUS LIQUID.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘trans-  
23 porting hazardous liquid’ means”;

24 (B) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “;  
25 but” and inserting a period; and

1 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “(B)  
2 does not” and inserting the following:

3 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘trans-  
4 porting hazardous liquid’ does not”; and

5 (7) in each of paragraphs (2) through (13),  
6 (15), (16), (18), (19), (20), (22) through (25), and  
7 (28)—

8 (A) by inserting “The term” after the  
9 paragraph designation; and

10 (B) by inserting a paragraph heading, the  
11 text of which comprises the term defined in the  
12 paragraph.

13 (b) REPORT.—Section 60102(b) of title 49, United  
14 States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (7).

Passed the Senate April 29, 2026.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

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**S. 2975**

**AN ACT**

To amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance the safety of pipeline transportation, and for other purposes.