

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2975

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

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 6, 2025

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

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,*

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

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Pipeline Integrity, Protection, and Enhancement for  
6 Leveraging Investments in the Nation’s Energy to assure  
7 Safety Act of 2025” or the “PIPELINE Safety Act of  
8 2025”.

9 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
10 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.

#### 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.

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

12 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
 13 and Transportation of the Senate;

14 (B) the Committee on Transportation and  
 15 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;  
 16 and

1 (C) the Committee on Energy and Com-  
2 merce of the House of Representatives.

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

11 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
12 the Secretary of Transportation.

## 13 **TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATIONS**

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

15 Section 60125(a) of title 49, United States Code, is  
16 amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (1)—

18 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

19 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
20 by striking “\$156,400,000 for fiscal year  
21 2021” and inserting “\$185,000,000 for  
22 fiscal year 2026”; and

23 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking  
24 “\$63,000,000” and inserting  
25 “\$83,250,000”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

2 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
3 by striking “\$158,500,000 for fiscal year  
4 2022” and inserting “\$190,365,000 for  
5 fiscal year 2027”; and

6 (ii) in clause (ii)—

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

9 (II) by striking “and” at the end;

10 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

11 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
12 by striking “\$162,700,000 for fiscal year  
13 2023” and inserting “\$195,886,000 for  
14 fiscal year 2028”; and

15 (ii) in clause (ii)—

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

18 (II) by striking the period at the  
19 end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

21 “(D) \$201,556,000 for fiscal year 2029, of

22 which—

23 “(i) \$9,000,000 shall be used to carry  
24 out section 12 of the Pipeline Safety Im-

1           provement Act of 2002 (49 U.S.C. 60101  
2           note; Public Law 107–355); and

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

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

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

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

13          (2) in paragraph (2)—

14           (A) in subparagraph (A)—

15           (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
16           by striking “\$27,000,000 for fiscal year  
17           2021” and inserting “\$30,000,000 for fis-  
18           cal year 2026”; and

19           (ii) in clause (ii), by striking  
20           “\$11,000,000” and inserting  
21           “\$13,500,000”;

22           (B) in subparagraph (B)—

23           (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
24           by striking “\$27,650,000 for fiscal year

1 2022” and inserting “\$31,000,000 for fis-  
2 cal year 2027”; and

3 (ii) in clause (ii)—

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

6 (II) by striking “and” at the end;

7 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

8 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
9 by striking “\$28,700,000 for fiscal year  
10 2023” and inserting “\$32,000,000 for fis-  
11 cal year 2028”; and

12 (ii) in clause (ii)—

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

15 (II) by striking the period at the  
16 end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

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

19 which—

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

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

1           “(E) 34,000,000 for fiscal year 2030, of  
2           which—

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

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

9           (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$8,000,000  
10           for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2023” and in-  
11           serting “\$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026  
12           through 2030”.

13 **SEC. 102. OPERATIONAL EXPENSES OF THE PIPELINE AND**  
14                   **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINIS-**  
15                   **TRATION.**

16           There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
17           retary for the necessary operational expenses of the Ad-  
18           ministration—

19                   (1) \$33,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

20                   (2) \$34,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

21                   (3) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

22                   (4) \$36,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

23                   (5) \$37,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.

1 **SEC. 103. OTHER PROGRAMS.**

2 (a) EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS.—Section  
3 60125(b)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended  
4 by striking “\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021  
5 through 2023 to carry out this subsection” and inserting  
6 “to carry out this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fis-  
7 cal years 2026 through 2030”.

8 (b) PIPELINE SAFETY INFORMATION GRANTS TO  
9 COMMUNITIES.—Section 60130 of title 49, United States  
10 Code, is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (c)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “section  
13 2(b) of the PIPES Act of 2016 (Public Law  
14 114–183; 130 Stat. 515), the Secretary shall  
15 use \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021  
16 through 2023 to carry out this section.” and in-  
17 serting the following: “section 60125(a)(1), the  
18 Secretary shall use to carry out this section—

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

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

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

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

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

24 and

25 (B) in paragraph (2)—

26 (i) by striking “\$1,000,000”; and

1 (ii) by striking “section.” and insert-  
2 ing the following: “section—  
3 “(A) \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;  
4 “(B) \$1,250,000 for fiscal year 2027;  
5 “(C) \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2028;  
6 “(D) \$1,750,000 for fiscal year 2029; and  
7 “(E) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.”;

8 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-  
9 section (e); and

10 (3) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-  
11 lowing:

12 “(d) DEADLINES.—

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

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

21 “(A) in such form and containing such in-  
22 formation as the Secretary considers to be ap-  
23 propriate; and

24 “(B) by such date as the Secretary may  
25 establish, subject to the condition that the date

1 shall be not later than 60 days after the date  
2 on which the Secretary publishes the notice of  
3 funding opportunity under paragraph (1).

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

10 (c) DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—Section  
11 60134(i) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by  
12 striking “\$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through  
13 2023. Such funds shall remain” and inserting  
14 “\$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030,  
15 to remain”.

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

19 (1) by striking “\$3,000,000” and inserting  
20 “\$2,500,000”; and

21 (2) by striking “the fiscal years 2021 through  
22 2023” and inserting “fiscal years 2026 through  
23 2030”.

1           **TITLE II—MODERNIZING**  
2                           **PIPELINE SAFETY**

3   **SEC. 201. INSPECTION OF IN-SERVICE BREAKOUT TANKS.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

11       **SEC. 202. RISK ASSESSMENT OBLIGATIONS.**

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

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

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

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

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

1 a peer review panel with respect to that  
2 risk assessment information.”.

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

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

7 “(l) UPDATING STANDARDS.—

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

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

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

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

22 “(iii) the modification of which has  
23 been published by a standards development  
24 organization (as defined in that section);  
25 and

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

5           “(2) LIST OF INDUSTRY STANDARDS.—

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

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

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

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

23           “(3) CONSIDERATION OF INDUSTRY CONSENSUS  
24           STANDARDS.—In prescribing new safety standards  
25           under this chapter, the Secretary shall consider

1 adopting or incorporating industry consensus stand-  
2 ards.

3 “(4) PUBLIC ACCESS.—

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

17 “(B) EXCEPTION.—If the full text of an  
18 industry consensus standard is not published on  
19 the public website of the Pipeline and Haz-  
20 ardous Materials Safety Administration or  
21 available from that website via a direct link to  
22 an external source where the full text is avail-  
23 able to the public on a website to view at no  
24 cost for the duration of time that the Secretary  
25 has the incorporation by reference available for

1 public comment, then the Secretary shall not  
2 incorporate or partially incorporate under this  
3 chapter that industry consensus standard by  
4 reference.

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

17 **SEC. 204. REPORT ON UPDATES TO THE NATIONAL PIPE-**  
18 **LINE MAPPING SYSTEM.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
21 of the United States shall submit to the appropriate com-  
22 mittees of Congress a report on the management of the  
23 National Pipeline Mapping System by the Administration.

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

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

4           (2) what sources of scientific data are used for  
5           those updates; and

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

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

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

14          Section 60142 of title 49, United States Code, is  
15          amended—

16               (1) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “3 years  
17               after the date of enactment of this section” and in-  
18               serting “5 years after the date of enactment of the  
19               PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025”;

20               (2) in subsection (d)—

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

23                     (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-  
24                     ing the following:

25                     “(2) DETERMINATION.—

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

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

14          (3) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the  
15          following:

16          “(h) AUTHORITY TO TERMINATE PROGRAM.—

17                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall imme-  
18                 diately terminate a testing program under sub-  
19                 section (a) if continuation of the testing program  
20                 would not be consistent with the goals and objectives  
21                 of this chapter.

22                 “(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 10 days  
23                 after the termination of a testing program under  
24                 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall notify the rel-

1        evant pipeline operators of how they can cure any  
2        deficiencies identified by the Secretary.

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

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

8            “(m) APPROVAL PROCESS.—Establishment of a test-  
9        ing program under subsection (a) shall not be considered  
10       a major Federal action (as defined in section 111 of the  
11       National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.  
12       4336e)) for purposes of that Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et  
13       seq.).”.

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

15            (a) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Section  
16        60115(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended,  
17        in the fifth sentence, by inserting “and notify the appro-  
18        priate committees of Congress (as defined in section 2 of  
19        the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025)” after “the Secretary  
20        shall publish the reasons”.

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

1 **SEC. 207. ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES.**

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

4 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 “(K) for civil penalties over \$1,000,000,  
21 adjusted each year for inflation, allow the re-  
22 spondent to request a formal hearing in accord-  
23 ance with section 554 of title 5, conducted by  
24 an administrative law judge; and

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

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

7           “(2) HEARING REQUIREMENTS.—A hearing  
8           under this section shall—

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

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

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

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

21 **SEC. 208. CIVIL PENALTIES.**

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

24           (1) in the first sentence, by striking  
25           “\$200,000” and inserting “\$400,000”; and

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

3 **SEC. 209. IMPROVING WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.**

4           Section 60129 of title 49, United States Code, is  
5 amended—

6           (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

7                 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or”  
8                 at the end;

9                 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
10                 “such a person.” and inserting “a person de-  
11                 scribed in subparagraph (A); or”; and

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

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

15           (2) in subsection (b)(3)(B)—

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

18                 (B) in clause (iii), by inserting “, including  
19                 compensation for any special damages sustained  
20                 as a result of the discrimination” after “com-  
21                 pensatory damages to the complainant”.

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

23           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall gather  
24 and assess any studies, data, standards, and approved ap-  
25 plications available as of the date of enactment of this Act

1 that address the safety of composite materials to support  
2 the safe transportation of—

3 (1) natural gas;

4 (2) natural gas liquids;

5 (3) new fuels, such as hydrogen and hydrogen  
6 blended with natural gas; and

7 (4) new fluids, such as carbon dioxide.

8 (b) DEADLINE.—The assessment under subsection  
9 (a) shall be completed not later than 1 year after the date  
10 of enactment of this Act.

11 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after com-  
12 pleting the assessment under subsection (a), the Adminis-  
13 trator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-  
14 gress a report describing the conclusions of the assess-  
15 ment.

16 (d) RULEMAKING.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator con-  
18 cludes, based on the assessment under subsection  
19 (a), that composite materials provide, at a minimum,  
20 an equivalent level of safety as other pipelines under  
21 the jurisdiction of the Administration, the Adminis-  
22 trator shall promulgate regulations, not later than  
23 180 days after the date on which the report under  
24 subsection (c) is submitted, that allow for the use of

1 composite materials for the transportation of new  
2 fuels.

3 (2) INCORPORATION OF EXISTING STAND-  
4 ARDS.—The regulations promulgated under para-  
5 graph (1) may include adoption or incorporation by  
6 reference of existing industry consensus standards.

7 **SEC. 211. ELEMENTS AND EVALUATION OF STATE DAMAGE**  
8 **PREVENTION PROGRAMS.**

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

11 (1) in subsection (b)—

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

14 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1)  
15 through (9) as subparagraphs (A) through (I),  
16 respectively;

17 (C) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
18 (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “An” and  
19 inserting the following:

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An”;

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

22 (i) by indenting subparagraphs (A)  
23 through (I) appropriately; and

24 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-  
25 lowing:

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

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

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

9           “(A) Restricting the size or scope of a one-  
10          call ticket for standard locate requests (which  
11          may include process exceptions for special large  
12          project tickets).

13          “(B) Restricting the longevity of a one-call  
14          ticket for standard locate requests (which may  
15          include process exceptions for special large  
16          project tickets).

17          “(C) Specifying tolerance (soft-dig only)  
18          zone horizontal dimensions.

19          “(D) Specifying tolerance zone require-  
20          ments.

21          “(E) Specifying emergency excavation noti-  
22          fication requirements.

23          “(F) Specifying the responsibilities of exca-  
24          vators, including the reporting of damages or  
25          suspected damages.

1           “(G) Defining who is an excavator and  
2 what is considered excavation.

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

4           “(I) Requiring a positive response before  
5 excavation begins, such as a utility, municipi-  
6 pality, or other entity that places the relevant  
7 marks positively responding to the notification  
8 center, and the excavator checking for that  
9 positive response before beginning excavation.

10           “(J) Requiring that newly installed under-  
11 ground facilities be locatable with commercially  
12 available technology.

13           “(K) Requiring the marking of sewer lines  
14 and laterals.

15           “(L) Specifying the qualifications of, and  
16 requirements for, those excavators performing  
17 trenchless excavation activities that are not sub-  
18 ject to pipeline construction requirements under  
19 part 192 or 195 of title 49, Code of Federal  
20 Regulations (or successor regulations).”; and  
21 (2) in subsection (c)—

22           (A) by striking “In” and inserting the fol-  
23 lowing:

24           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In”; and

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

1           “(2) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—The evaluation  
2 criteria used by the Secretary for determining the ef-  
3 fectiveness of a State damage prevention program  
4 shall include consideration of whether the State, at  
5 a minimum—

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

9                   “(B) requires reporting to the local one-  
10 call center of excavation damage events that af-  
11 fect pipelines and other underground facilities  
12 that are not privately owned, including (to the  
13 extent available at the time of the reporting)—

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

16                                   “(ii) the organizations involved;

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

19                                   “(iv) the impact to the environment;

20                                   and

21                   “(C) limits exemptions to State damage  
22 prevention laws.”.

23           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 60114(f) of  
24 title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “sec-

1 tion 60134(b)(7)” and inserting “section  
2 60134(b)(1)(G)”.

3 **SEC. 212. PIPELINE SAFETY VOLUNTARY INFORMATION-**  
4 **SHARING SYSTEM.**

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

8 **“§ 60144. Voluntary information-sharing system**

9 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

4           “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

5           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
6           the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary  
7           shall establish a confidential and nonpunitive vol-  
8           untary information-sharing system to encourage the  
9           sharing of pipeline safety data and information in  
10          order to improve the safety of gas transmission pipe-  
11          lines, gas distribution pipelines, liquefied natural gas  
12          facilities, underground natural gas storage facilities,  
13          and hazardous liquid pipelines.

14          “(2) REQUIREMENT.—The VIS shall be imple-  
15          mented and managed in accordance with the report  
16          entitled ‘Pipeline Safety Voluntary Information-  
17          Sharing System Recommendation Report’ prepared  
18          under section 10 of the PIPES Act of 2016 (49  
19          U.S.C. 60108 note; Public Law 114–183) by the  
20          Voluntary Information Sharing System Working  
21          Group convened under that section.

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

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

3           “(B) to share recommended remediation  
4           measures and lessons learned across the pipe-  
5           line industry in an efficient and confidential  
6           manner.

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

10           “(1) the Program Manager;

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

12           “(3) 1 or more Issue Analysis Teams.

13           “(d) GOVERNING BOARD.—

14           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
15           after the date of enactment of this section, the Ad-  
16           ministrator, after consulting with public and private  
17           pipeline safety stakeholders, shall establish a gov-  
18           erning board for the VIS.

19           “(2) COMPOSITION.—

20           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Governing Board  
21           shall be composed of 15 members who shall rep-  
22           resent a balanced cross-section of pipeline safe-  
23           ty stakeholders, in accordance with subpara-  
24           graphs (B) and (C).

1           “(B) REPRESENTATION.—The Governing  
2 Board shall be composed of the following mem-  
3 bers:

4           “(i) 5 individuals selected from rel-  
5 evant pipeline safety departments, agen-  
6 cies, or instrumentalities of the Federal  
7 Government or State or territorial govern-  
8 ments, 1 of whom shall be the Adminis-  
9 trator (or a designee of the Administrator).

10           “(ii) 5 individuals selected from the  
11 gas or hazardous liquid industries, such as  
12 individuals representing or otherwise asso-  
13 ciated with—

14           “(I) operators;

15           “(II) trade associations;

16           “(III) inspection technology,  
17 coating, or cathodic protection ven-  
18 dors;

19           “(IV) standards development or-  
20 ganizations;

21           “(V) research and development  
22 consortia; or

23           “(VI) pipeline inspection organi-  
24 zations.

1           “(iii) 5 individuals selected from gen-  
2           eral public safety advocacy organizations  
3           with relevant pipeline safety expertise, in-  
4           cluding—

5                   “(I) pipeline safety and environ-  
6                   mental public interest groups;

7                   “(II) public institutions of higher  
8                   education with pipeline safety exper-  
9                   tise; and

10                   “(III) nonprofit employee labor  
11                   organizations.

12           “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—

13                   “(i) PIPELINE INDUSTRY.—At least 1  
14                   member of the Governing Board appointed  
15                   under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall be a rep-  
16                   resentative of the pipeline industry.

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

22           “(3) TERMS.—

23                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
24                   subparagraph (B), each member of the Gov-

1           erning Board shall be appointed for a term of  
2           3 years.

3           “(B) INITIAL MEMBERS.—In appointing  
4           the initial members of the Governing Board, the  
5           Administrator shall appoint members to terms  
6           of 1, 2, or 3 years to ensure that each year  
7           thereafter—

8                   “(i) the terms of 5 members will ex-  
9                   pire; and

10                   “(ii) the term of not less than 1 and  
11                   not more than 2 members described in  
12                   each of clauses (i) through (iii) of para-  
13                   graph (2)(B) will expire.

14           “(C) REAPPOINTMENT.—A member or  
15           former member of the Governing Board ap-  
16           pointed under clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph  
17           (2)(B) may be reappointed, but may only serve  
18           for a total of 3 terms.

19           “(4) CO-CHAIRS.—

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

22                   “(i) the Administrator (or a designee  
23                   of the Administrator);

24                   “(ii) a representative of the pipeline  
25                   industry appointed under paragraph

1 (2)(B)(ii), who shall be appointed co-chair  
2 by the Administrator, with the advice and  
3 consent of the Governing Board; and

4 “(iii) a representative of a pipeline  
5 safety public interest group, who shall be  
6 appointed co-chair by the Administrator,  
7 with the advice and consent of the Gov-  
8 erning Board.

9 “(B) RESPONSIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.—  
10 The co-chairs shall be jointly responsible for or-  
11 ganizing and conducting meetings of the Gov-  
12 erning Board.

13 “(5) AUTHORITY.—The Governing Board shall  
14 have authority—

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

17 “(B) to develop governance documents, in-  
18 cluding a charter for the Governing Board that  
19 shall—

20 “(i) be made available to the public;

21 and

22 “(ii) describe—

23 “(I) the scope of the authority of  
24 the Governing Board; and

1                   “(II) the objectives of the Gov-  
2                   erning Board;

3                   “(C) to select and appoint the Third-Party  
4                   Data Manager in accordance with subsection  
5                   (f);

6                   “(D) to approve the criteria and proce-  
7                   dures governing how the Third-Party Data  
8                   Manager will receive and accept pipeline safety  
9                   data and information;

10                  “(E) to establish, and appoint members of,  
11                  Issue Analysis Teams in accordance with sub-  
12                  section (g);

13                  “(F) to collaborate with Issue Analysis  
14                  Teams to identify issues and topics to be ana-  
15                  lyzed by the Issue Analysis Teams;

16                  “(G) to collaborate with Issue Analysis  
17                  Teams to specify the type of pipeline safety  
18                  data and information necessary for the Issue  
19                  Analysis Teams to analyze the issues and topics  
20                  identified under subparagraph (F);

21                  “(H) to determine the information to be  
22                  disseminated by the VIS;

23                  “(I) to determine the reports to be dis-  
24                  seminated by the VIS;

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

3                   “(i) VIS processes;

4                   “(ii) the membership of the Governing  
5 Board;

6                   “(iii) issues and topics being inves-  
7 tigated and analyzed by Issue Analysis  
8 Teams or the Governing Board;

9                   “(iv) pipeline safety data and informa-  
10 tion that the VIS has requested for sub-  
11 mission to the VIS; and

12                   “(v) safety trends identified by the  
13 Administrator, Issue Analysis Teams, or  
14 the Governing Board; and

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

17                   “(i) necessary or appropriate; and

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

20           “(6) DECISIONMAKING.—

21                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—Decisions and approv-  
22 als of the Governing Board shall be made by a  
23 super-majority of the members, as described in  
24 subparagraph (B).

1           “(B) SUPERMAJORITY DESCRIBED.—A  
2           supermajority referred to in subparagraph (A)  
3           shall consist of not fewer than—

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

6                   “(ii) 1 additional member of the Gov-  
7                   erning Board.

8           “(e) PROGRAM MANAGER.—

9                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator (or a  
10                  designee of the Administrator) shall serve as the  
11                  Program Manager for the VIS.

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

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

17                  “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governing Board shall  
18                  appoint a Third-Party Data Manager to provide  
19                  data management and data oversight services for the  
20                  VIS.

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

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

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

6           “(B) accept pipeline safety data and infor-  
7 mation submitted to the VIS that meets the cri-  
8 teria and procedures approved by the Governing  
9 Board under subsection (d)(5)(D);

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

13          “(D) collaborate with Issue Analysis  
14 Teams to analyze and aggregate pipeline safety  
15 data and information that is accepted by the  
16 VIS;

17          “(E) prepare reports as requested by the  
18 Governing Board regarding the type of pipeline  
19 safety data and information that is managed by  
20 the VIS; and

21          “(F) make recommendations to the Gov-  
22 erning Board regarding the management of  
23 pipeline safety data and information by the  
24 VIS, as appropriate.

25          “(g) ISSUE ANALYSIS TEAMS.—

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

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

8                   “(A) subject to subparagraph (B), consist  
9                   of pipeline safety technical and subject matter  
10                  experts; and

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

14           “(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—An Issue Analysis  
15           Team shall—

16                   “(A) work with the Third-Party Data  
17                   Manager to aggregate and analyze pipeline  
18                   safety data and information submitted to the  
19                   VIS relating to the issues and topics analyzed  
20                   by the Issue Analysis Team; and

21                   “(B) submit internal reports and rec-  
22                   ommendations to the Governing Board on those  
23                   issues and topics.

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

4               “(1) the VIS;

5               “(2) the Governing Board; or

6               “(3) any Issue Analysis Team.

7       “(i) PARTICIPATION IN THE VIS.—

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

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

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

21                       “(A) operators of gas transmission, gas  
22 distribution, and hazardous liquid pipelines;

23                       “(B) employees of those operators;

24                       “(C) labor unions representing those em-  
25 ployees;

1           “(D) contractors of the operators described  
2           in subparagraph (A);

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

4           “(F) non-destructive evaluation experts;

5           “(G) the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
6           Safety Administration; and

7           “(H) representatives of—

8           “(i) State pipeline safety agencies;

9           “(ii) relevant Tribal agencies;

10           “(iii) pipeline safety public interest  
11           groups;

12           “(iv) manufacturers of gas trans-  
13           mission, gas distribution, and hazardous  
14           liquid pipeline infrastructure and equip-  
15           ment; and

16           “(v) relevant research and academic  
17           institutions.

18           “(4) LIMITATION ON INCLUSION OF DATA AND  
19           INFORMATION IN THE VIS.—Pipeline safety data and  
20           information accepted by the Third-Party Data Man-  
21           ager for inclusion in the VIS under subsection  
22           (f)(3)(B) shall be related to the issues and topics  
23           identified by the Governing Board for analysis by an  
24           Issue Analysis Team under subsection (d)(5)(F).

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

6                   “(A) pipeline integrity risk analysis infor-  
7                   mation;

8                   “(B) lessons learned from accidents and  
9                   near misses;

10                   “(C) process improvements;

11                   “(D) technology deployment practices;

12                   “(E) information obtained through VIS  
13                   pipeline safety surveys of pipeline operator em-  
14                   ployees, subject to the condition that such sur-  
15                   veys are voluntarily agreed to by the pipeline  
16                   operator;

17                   “(F) pipeline safety data and information  
18                   which may lead to the identification of pipeline  
19                   safety risks, as specified by the Governing  
20                   Board; and

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

23           “(j) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

24                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—To facilitate the sharing of  
25                   otherwise nonpublic pipeline safety data and infor-

1 mation with the VIS, the data and information ac-  
2 cepted, stored, managed, analyzed, or produced by  
3 the VIS—

4 “(A) shall be kept confidential by the VIS;

5 and

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

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

21 “(3) EXCEPTION.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding  
23 paragraphs (1) and (2) and subsections (k) and  
24 (l), on approval by the Governing Board under  
25 subparagraph (B), the Governing Board or the

1 Administrator may disclose de-identified non-  
2 public information obtained by the VIS.

3 “(B) APPROVAL.—Approval to disclose de-  
4 identified nonpublic information under subpara-  
5 graph (A)—

6 “(i) shall be based on an analysis of  
7 the de-identified nonpublic information;  
8 and

9 “(ii) may, in the sole discretion of the  
10 Governing Board, consist of any safety  
11 findings or recommendations that the Gov-  
12 erning Board determines to publish or au-  
13 thORIZES the Administrator to publish to  
14 improve pipeline safety.

15 “(C) PUBLIC REPORTS.—In issuing public  
16 reports under subsection (d)(5)(J), the Gov-  
17 erning Board shall approve the disclosure of de-  
18 identified nonpublic information obtained by the  
19 VIS that the Governing Board determines is  
20 necessary to adequately describe and illustrate  
21 the issues and topics being investigated and  
22 analyzed by Issue Analysis Teams or the Gov-  
23 erning Board.

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

4           “(k) APPLICABILITY OF FOIA.—

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

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

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

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

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

24           “(B) to initiate any enforcement action or  
25 civil litigation against a pipeline operator or the

1 employees or contractors of a pipeline operator  
2 relating to a probable violation under this chap-  
3 ter (including any regulation promulgated or  
4 order issued under this chapter).

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

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

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

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

17 “(C) is otherwise required to be reported  
18 to the Secretary under part 190, 191 (including  
19 information about an incident or accident), 192,  
20 194, 195, or 199 of title 49, Code of Federal  
21 Regulations (or successor regulations);

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

24 “(E) is developed or obtained from a  
25 source other than the VIS, including through

1           discovery from a person or an entity other than  
2           the VIS in an enforcement action or private liti-  
3           gation.

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

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

8           “(2) otherwise limits or affects the discovery of  
9           pipeline safety data and information arising from a  
10          cause of action authorized under any other Federal,  
11          State, or local law.

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

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

17          “(p) FUNDING.—

18                 “(1) SUSTAINABLE FUNDING.—The Secretary  
19 shall—

20                         “(A) explore sustainable funding sources  
21 for the VIS, including public-private partner-  
22 ships; and

23                         “(B) to the maximum extent practicable,  
24 sustainably fund the VIS through the use of  
25 those sustainable funding sources.

1           “(2) LIMITED ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—In addi-  
2           tion to the fees collected under section 60301, the  
3           Secretary may collect an additional \$5,000,000  
4           under that section for each of fiscal years 2024  
5           through 2027 to establish, implement, and manage  
6           the VIS.”.

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

9           (1) by redesignating paragraphs (17) through  
10           (26) as paragraphs (18), (19), (20), (25), (26), (27),  
11           (22), (23), (24), and (28), respectively, and moving  
12           the paragraphs so as to appear in numerical order;

13           (2) by inserting after paragraph (16) the fol-  
14           lowing:

15           “(17) NONPUBLIC INFORMATION.—The term  
16           ‘nonpublic information’ means any pipeline safety  
17           data or information, regardless of form or format,  
18           that—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“60144. Voluntary information-sharing system.”.

10          (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

11           (1) Section 70012(c) of title 46, United States  
12 Code, is amended by striking “section  
13 60101(a)(18)” and inserting “section 60101(a)”.

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

18 **SEC. 213. TRANSPORTING GAS.**

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

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

24                   “(26) TRANSPORTING GAS.—

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

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

5           (3) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting  
6           the following:

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

9           “(i) gathering gas (except through  
10           regulated gathering lines) in a rural area  
11           outside a populated area designated by the  
12           Secretary as a nonrural area; or

13           “(ii) the movement of gas by the  
14           owner or operator of a plant for use as a  
15           fuel, a feedstock, or for any other purpose  
16           that directly supports plant operations  
17           through—

18           “(I) in-plant piping systems that  
19           are located entirely on the grounds of  
20           the plant; or

21           “(II) transfer piping systems  
22           that extend less than 1 mile in length  
23           outside the grounds of the plant.”.

1 **SEC. 214. INSPECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF RIGHTS-OF-**  
2 **WAY.**

3 (a) **INSPECTION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**—Section  
4 60108 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by add-  
5 ing at the end the following:

6 “(f) **INSPECTION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**—

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

11 “(2) **SAVINGS PROVISION.**—Nothing in this sub-  
12 section affects any obligation to operate an un-  
13 manned aircraft system in accordance with all rel-  
14 evant Federal laws relating to the use of unmanned  
15 aircraft systems.”.

16 (b) **MANAGEMENT OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**—Section  
17 60108(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

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

20 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each”;

21 (2) in paragraph (2)—

22 (A) by striking “(2) If” and inserting the  
23 following:

24 “(2) **REVISION.**—If”;

25 (B) by indenting subparagraphs (A)  
26 through (E) appropriately; and

1 (C) in subparagraph (D), by indenting  
2 clauses (i) through (iii) appropriately;

3 (3) in paragraph (3), by indenting the para-  
4 graph, and each subparagraph within the paragraph,  
5 appropriately; and

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

7 “(4) ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF MAINTAINING  
8 RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the review  
10 conducted under paragraph (3), the Secretary  
11 shall allow for an alternative method of main-  
12 taining rights-of-way for pipelines and other  
13 pipeline facilities under a voluntary program  
14 carried out by the operator if the Secretary de-  
15 termines that the alternative method—

16 “(i) achieves a level of safety at least  
17 equal to the level of safety required by the  
18 regulations promulgated under this chap-  
19 ter; and

20 “(ii) allows for timely emergency re-  
21 sponse.

22 “(B) PURPOSE.—An operator considering  
23 implementing an alternative method described  
24 in subparagraph (A) may consider incor-  
25 porating into the plan for implementing that

1 method 1 or more conservation practices, in-  
2 cluding—

3 “(i) integrated vegetation manage-  
4 ment practices, including reduced mowing;

5 “(ii) the development of habitat and  
6 forage for pollinators and other wildlife  
7 through seeding or planting of diverse na-  
8 tive forbs and grasses;

9 “(iii) practices relating to mainte-  
10 nance strategies that promote early succes-  
11 sional vegetation or limit disturbance dur-  
12 ing periods of highest use by target polli-  
13 nator species and other wildlife on pipeline  
14 or facility rights-of-way, including—

15 “(I) increasing mowing height;

16 “(II) reducing mowing frequency;

17 and

18 “(III) refraining from mowing  
19 monarch and other pollinator habitat  
20 during periods in which monarchs or  
21 other pollinators are present;

22 “(iv) an integrated vegetation man-  
23 agement plan that may include approaches  
24 such as mechanical tree and brush removal  
25 and targeted and judicious use of herbi-

1 cides and mowing to address incompatible  
2 or undesirable vegetation while promoting  
3 compatible and beneficial vegetation on  
4 pipeline and facility rights-of-way;

5 “(v) planting or seeding of deeply  
6 rooted, regionally appropriate perennial  
7 grasses and wildflowers, including milk-  
8 weed, to enhance habitat;

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

12 “(vii) obtaining expert training or as-  
13 sistance on wildlife- and pollinator-friendly  
14 practices, including—

15 “(I) native plant identification;

16 “(II) establishment and manage-  
17 ment of regionally appropriate native  
18 plants;

19 “(III) land management prac-  
20 tices; and

21 “(IV) integrated vegetation man-  
22 agement.

23 “(C) CONSULTATION.—

24 “(i) AVAILABLE GUIDANCE.—In devel-  
25 oping alternative methods under this para-

1 graph, an operator shall consult any avail-  
2 able guidance issued by—

3 “(I) the Secretary; or

4 “(II) an applicable State agency  
5 carrying out compliance activities on  
6 behalf of the Secretary in accordance  
7 with section 60105.

8 “(ii) LEADING INDUSTRY PRAC-  
9 TICES.—In the absence of guidance de-  
10 scribed in clause (i), an operator may con-  
11 sult leading industry practices and guid-  
12 ance to develop and implement alternative  
13 methods under this paragraph.

14 “(D) REQUIREMENTS.—An operator using  
15 an alternative method under this paragraph  
16 shall ensure that the alternative inspection  
17 plans of the operator continue to ensure that  
18 the operator can identify risks to pipeline facili-  
19 ties.

20 “(E) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in  
21 this paragraph exempts an operator from com-  
22 pliance with any applicable requirements under  
23 this chapter (including any regulations promul-  
24 gated under this chapter).”.

1 (c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—3 years after the  
2 date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of  
3 the Department of Transportation shall initiate a review  
4 of a representative sample of the inspection and mainte-  
5 nance plans of operators that have utilized alternative  
6 methods of maintaining rights-of-way under section  
7 60108(a)(4) of title 49, United States Code, to deter-  
8 mine—

9 (1) whether reduced mowing has limited the  
10 ability of pipeline operators to assess risks to pipe-  
11 line facilities;

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

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

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

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

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

1 **SEC. 215. GEOLOGICAL HAZARDS.**

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

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

6 and

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

8 “(iv) mitigation of threats posed by  
9 geological hazards; and”.

10 (b) GEOLOGICAL HAZARD MITIGATION REPORT.—

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

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

18 (B) evaluates any industry consensus  
19 standards or best practices relating to hazards  
20 described in subparagraph (A);

21 (C) evaluates existing Federal require-  
22 ments for pipeline facility design, construction,  
23 operations, maintenance, and integrity that re-  
24 late to mitigation of geological hazards; and

1 (D) makes recommendations to improve  
2 geological hazard mitigation based on the find-  
3 ings of the report.

4 (2) SUBMISSION.—On completion of the report  
5 under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall submit  
6 the report to the Secretary and the appropriate com-  
7 mittees of Congress.

8 (c) REGULATORY REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year  
9 after completion of the report under subsection (b)(1), the  
10 Secretary shall review, and may update, as appropriate,  
11 existing regulations and policy guidance that addresses the  
12 safety of gas, hazardous liquid, and carbon dioxide pipe-  
13 line facilities to include consideration of threats posed by  
14 geological hazards.

15 **SEC. 216. ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES.**

16 (a) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.—Not later than 2  
17 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every  
18 5 years thereafter, the Administrator shall—

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

24 (2) allow the public the opportunity to comment  
25 on those proposals.

1           (b) REGULATIONS.—If the Secretary determines that  
 2 a technology that is commercially available would meet the  
 3 intent of an existing pipeline safety regulation and provide  
 4 an equal or greater level of pipeline safety, the Adminis-  
 5 trator may issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to up-  
 6 date the relevant regulations to allow operators to adopt  
 7 the use of such technology.

8 **SEC. 217. FIRE SHUTOFF VALVES.**

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

11           “(f) FIRE SHUTOFF VALVES OR EQUIVALENT TECH-  
 12 NOLOGY.—

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

14                           “(A) EQUIVALENT TECHNOLOGY.—The  
 15 term ‘equivalent technology’ means any tech-  
 16 nology that—

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

18                                   “(ii) meets the performance standard  
 19 of shutting off gas on a service line of a  
 20 distribution system to a dwelling or other  
 21 building in the event of a fire.

22                           “(B) FIRE-FIRST IGNITION.—The term  
 23 ‘fire-first ignition’ means an occurrence in  
 24 which a fire originating from a foreign source

1 causes a natural gas system to fail, release, or  
2 ignite.

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

5 “(i) a fire shutoff valve; and

6 “(ii) any equivalent technology.

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

10 “(i) is made of a low-melting-point  
11 alloy;

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

13 “(iii) melts when exposed to fire,  
14 causing the spring-loaded plug to close,  
15 shutting off the gas to a dwelling or other  
16 building connected to a service line of a  
17 distribution system.

18 “(2) STUDY.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years  
20 after the date of enactment of this subsection,  
21 the Secretary shall complete a study on the ef-  
22 fectiveness of fire safety valves in order to de-  
23 termine the ability of fire safety valves to im-  
24 prove public safety through mitigation of sec-  
25 ondary ignitions, such as fire-first ignitions.

1           “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The study under  
2           subparagraph (A) shall evaluate—

3                   “(i) various scenarios and applications  
4                   for deploying fire safety valves;

5                   “(ii) the current incidence of fire-first  
6                   ignition of natural gas distribution pipe-  
7                   lines;

8                   “(iii) anticipated reduction of fire-first  
9                   ignition risk under various fire safety valve  
10                  deployment scenarios, including—

11                           “(I) lowering the likelihood of  
12                           gas ignition; and

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

15                           “(iv) the long-term durability, con-  
16                           struction, and effectiveness of fire safety  
17                           valves; and

18                           “(v) the commercial availability of fire  
19                           safety valves for the pipeline industry.

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

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

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

15 **SEC. 219. MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE OPERATING PRESSURE**  
16 **RECORDS.**

17 (a) PREVIOUSLY TESTED TRANSMISSION LINES.—  
18 Until the report required under subsection (b)(1) and the  
19 rulemaking required under subsection (c) (if determined  
20 necessary by the Secretary) are completed, the Secretary  
21 shall not require an owner or operator of a pipeline facility  
22 to reconfirm the maximum allowable operating pressure  
23 of a natural gas transmission pipeline pursuant to section  
24 192.624 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or a suc-  
25 cessor regulation), if the owner or operator confirms the  
26 material strength of the pipeline through prior testing con-

1 ducted to a sufficient minimum pressure in accordance  
2 with prevailing safety standards and practices, including  
3 any applicable class location factors, and documented in  
4 contemporaneous records.

5 (b) WORKING GROUP REPORT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall direct  
7 the existing maximum allowable operating pressure  
8 working group of the Administration (referred to in  
9 this subsection as the “working group”) to continue  
10 producing a report containing recommendations on  
11 the contemporaneous records that are sufficient to  
12 confirm the material strength of a natural gas trans-  
13 mission pipeline through prior testing.

14 (2) COMPOSITION OF WORKING GROUP.—For  
15 purposes of carrying out paragraph (1), the working  
16 group shall be composed of the members of the  
17 working group as of January 1, 2025.

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

20 (A) shall consider historical practices and  
21 all available research conducted regarding min-  
22 imum pressure and contemporaneous records on  
23 transmission pipelines;

24 (B) may consider the need for any addi-  
25 tional research or analyses necessary to dem-

1           onstrate the adequacy of any strength testing  
2           performed; and

3           (C) shall consider the investigation, report,  
4           and recommendations of the National Trans-  
5           portation Safety Board following the San  
6           Bruno pipeline explosion.

7           (4) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Not later than  
8           180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
9           working group shall submit to the Secretary and the  
10          appropriate committees of Congress the report pro-  
11          duced under paragraph (1), including any minority  
12          views.

13          (c) RULEMAKING.—

14           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
15          receiving the report described in subsection (b)(1), if  
16          the Secretary determines necessary, the Secretary,  
17          after providing notice and opportunity for comment,  
18          shall promulgate standards revising the require-  
19          ments addressing the records necessary to confirm  
20          the maximum allowable operating pressure of a nat-  
21          ural gas transmission pipeline segment.

22           (2) LIMITATIONS.—The rulemaking under  
23          paragraph (1) shall not delay the date by which  
24          pipeline operators must comply with maximum al-  
25          lowable operating pressure reconfirmation regula-

1 tions with respect to their natural gas transmission  
 2 pipeline segments under section 192.624 of title 49,  
 3 Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
 4 date of enactment of this Act).

5 **SEC. 220. PIPELINE OPERATING STATUS.**

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

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days  
 10 after the date of enactment of the PIPELINE Safe-  
 11 ty Act of 2025, the Secretary shall promulgate regu-  
 12 lations prescribing the applicability of the pipeline  
 13 safety requirements to—

14 “(A) idled natural gas transmission pipe-  
 15 lines;

16 “(B) idled other gas transmission pipe-  
 17 lines; and

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

19 **SEC. 221. POTENTIAL IMPACT RADIUS.**

20 (a) DEFINITION OF POTENTIAL IMPACT RADIUS.—  
 21 In this section, the term “potential impact radius” means  
 22 the area within which the potential failure of a pipeline  
 23 could have significant impact on persons or property, in-  
 24 cluding injury or death.

25 (b) REVIEW AND UPDATE OF METHODOLOGY.—

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

4                   (A) the methodology, including any for-  
5                   mulas, used by the Administration to determine  
6                   a potential impact radius for onshore gas trans-  
7                   mission pipelines; and

8                   (B) any applicable recommendations, in-  
9                   cluding any pipeline safety recommendations  
10                  submitted to the Secretary or Congress by the  
11                  National Transportation Safety Board or the  
12                  Government Accountability Office.

13          (2) REPORT.—

14                  (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180  
15                  days after completion of the review under para-  
16                  graph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the ap-  
17                  propriate committees of Congress a report de-  
18                  tailing the findings of the review.

19                  (B) REQUIREMENT.—The report under  
20                  subparagraph (A) shall evaluate whether the  
21                  methodology reviewed under paragraph (1)(A)  
22                  accounts for—

23                          (i) available human response data;

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

1 (iii) the risk of serious injury or  
2 death, or property damage, from a pipeline  
3 incident; and

4 (iv) the unique characteristics of the  
5 types of gas being transported.

6 (c) INVESTIGATION REPORTS.—Beginning not later  
7 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, any  
8 Pipeline Failure Investigation reports prepared by the Ac-  
9 cident Investigation Division of the Administration for ac-  
10 cidents involving onshore gas transmission pipelines shall  
11 identify the location and distance from the pipeline of  
12 damage, including injuries and property damage, outside  
13 of the potential impact radius determined for the pipeline.

14 **SEC. 222. EFFECTS OF WEATHER ON NATURAL GAS PIPE-**  
15 **LINES.**

16 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) APPLICABLE WEATHER EVENT.—The term  
18 “applicable weather event” means a relevant weath-  
19 er-related event described in the definition of the  
20 term “major disaster” in section 102 of the Robert  
21 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-  
22 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122) that has the potential to  
23 impact the safety of a natural gas pipeline facility.

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

1 (A) a natural gas pipeline; and

2 (B) any related pipeline facility, equip-  
3 ment, or infrastructure.

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

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

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

14 **SEC. 223. ALDYL–A PIPELINES.**

15 (a) ASSESSMENT OF ALDYL–A POLYETHYLENE PIP-  
16 ING.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment  
17 of this Act, each owner or operator of a gas distribution  
18 pipeline facility shall assess its system for the presence  
19 of Aldyl–A polyethylene.

20 (b) LIMITATION.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not re-  
22 quire owners and operators of gas distribution pipe-  
23 line facilities to conduct excavation activities for the  
24 purpose of the assessment required under subsection

25 (a).

1           (2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this sub-  
2           section affects the authority of the Secretary  
3           under—

4                   (A) section 60112 of title 49, United  
5           States Code; or

6                   (B) subsection (m) or (p) of section 60117  
7           of that title.

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

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

18                           “(i) cast iron and bare steel pipelines;

19                           and

20                           “(ii) pipelines constructed of historic  
21                           plastics with known safety issues”.

22          (e) EVALUATION OF RISK IN DISTRIBUTION INTEG-  
23          RITY                   MANAGEMENT                   PROGRAMS.—Section  
24          60109(e)(7)(A)(i) of title 49, United States Code, is  
25          amended by striking “presence of cast iron pipes and

1 mains in the distribution system; and” and inserting the  
 2 following: “presence, in the distribution system, of pipes  
 3 and mains made of—

4 “(I) cast iron;

5 “(II) unprotected steel;

6 “(III) wrought iron; or

7 “(IV) historic plastics with  
 8 known safety issues; and”.

9 **SEC. 224. IMPROVEMENTS TO PIPELINE SAFETY INTEGRITY**

10 **MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.**

11 The Secretary shall conduct research into the use of  
 12 quantitative data and modeling to assess whether the use  
 13 of such data or modeling in the integrity management pro-  
 14 grams of operators would improve the estimation of costs  
 15 and benefits of risk reduction measures.

16 **TITLE III—STREAMLINING**  
 17 **OVERSIGHT OF PIPELINES**

18 **SEC. 301. REGULATORY UPDATES.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the PIPES Act of  
 20 2020 (Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2220) is amend-  
 21 ed—

22 (1) in subsection (a)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1)—

24 (i) by striking “a final” and inserting

25 “A final”; and

1 (ii) by striking “that has not been  
2 published in the Federal Register;” and in-  
3 serting a period;

4 (B) in paragraph (2)—

5 (i) by striking “a final” and inserting  
6 “A final”; and

7 (ii) by striking “that has not been  
8 published in the Federal Register; and”  
9 and inserting a period;

10 (C) in paragraph (3)—

11 (i) by striking “any other” and insert-  
12 ing “Any other”; and

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

15 (D) by redesignating paragraphs (1)  
16 through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C),  
17 respectively, and indenting appropriately;

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

19 “(D) A final rule required to be issued  
20 under the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025.”;  
21 and

22 (F) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
23 (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “In this  
24 section, the term ‘outstanding mandate’  
25 means—” and inserting the following:

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

4                   “(A) is required to be issued by the Sec-  
5           retary (including any subordinate of the Sec-  
6           retary); and

7                   “(B) has not been published in the Federal  
8           Register.

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

11                   (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “referred to  
12          in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a) is  
13          published in the Federal Register” and inserting  
14          “described in subsection (a)(2) is published in the  
15          Federal Register with respect to the applicable out-  
16          standing mandate”; and

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

18                   “(d) REQUIRED BRIEFING.—If the Secretary fails to  
19          update the website as required under subsection (b)(1),  
20          an appropriate employee of the Administration shall pro-  
21          vide an in-person briefing to the relevant committees of  
22          Congress every 30 days until the requirements of that sub-  
23          section are met.

24                   “(e) OPTIONAL BRIEFING.—Annually, the Adminis-  
25          trator shall offer to provide a briefing, by the Adminis-

1 trator or a designee, to the relevant committees of Con-  
2 gress on the status of outstanding mandates.

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

9 (b) DEADLINE NONCOMPLIANCE.—

10 (1) BRIEFINGS.—If the Secretary does not  
11 complete a requirement described in paragraph (2)  
12 by the deadline established by statute for the com-  
13 pletion of that requirement, the Administrator shall  
14 brief the appropriate committees of Congress in per-  
15 son on the status of the requirement—

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

18 (B) every 90 days thereafter until the Sec-  
19 retary completes the requirement.

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

22 (A) The rulemaking required under section  
23 60143(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, re-  
24 lating to idled pipelines.

1           (B) The issuance of a final rule under sec-  
2           tion 601 with respect to the final regulations  
3           required under section 60102(q)(1) of title 49,  
4           United States Code, relating to gas pipeline  
5           leak detection and repair programs.

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

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

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

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

11           “(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
12           GRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of  
13           Congress’ has the meaning given the term in  
14           section 2 of the PIPELINE Safety Act of  
15           2025.

16           “(B) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The term  
17           ‘Inspector General’ means the Inspector Gen-  
18           eral of the Department of Transportation.

19           “(C) RISK-BASED INTEGRATED INSPEC-  
20           TION PROGRAM.—The term ‘risk-based inte-  
21           grated inspection program’ means an inspection  
22           program that uses risk information and data to  
23           focus inspection resources on pipeline facilities  
24           and regulatory requirements that have the high-  
25           est priority during an inspection.

1           “(2) AUTHORIZATION.—Subject to all other ap-  
2           plicable provisions of this section, with the written  
3           agreement of the Secretary and a State authority  
4           certified under this section, which may be in the  
5           form of a memorandum of understanding, the Sec-  
6           retary may authorize, and the State authority may  
7           carry out, a risk-based integrated inspection pro-  
8           gram.

9           “(3) PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE RE-  
10          QUIREMENTS.—A State authority that is authorized  
11          to carry out a risk-based integrated inspection pro-  
12          gram—

13                 “(A) shall be subject to the same proce-  
14                 dural and substantive requirements that would  
15                 apply if the Secretary were carrying out the  
16                 program; and

17                 “(B) shall ensure—

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

20                         “(ii) that unsatisfactory conditions  
21                         found in inspections are addressed in a  
22                         timely manner.

23           “(4) APPLICATION AND CRITERIA.—Not later  
24           than 1 year after the date of enactment of this sub-  
25           section, the Secretary shall establish procedures and

1 criteria for State authorities to apply to carry out a  
2 risk-based integrated inspection program pursuant  
3 to this subsection.

4 “(5) EVALUATION TIMELINE.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
6 after receiving an application from a State au-  
7 thority to carry out a risk-based integrated in-  
8 spection program under this subsection, the  
9 Secretary shall—

10 “(i) review the application; and

11 “(ii) approve or deny the application.

12 “(B) EXPLANATION OF DENIAL.—If the  
13 Secretary denies an application submitted by a  
14 State authority under this subsection, the Sec-  
15 retary shall provide an explanation to the State  
16 authority of—

17 “(i) why the Secretary denied the ap-  
18 plication; and

19 “(ii) changes that the State authority  
20 could make to the application that would  
21 result in the Secretary approving the appli-  
22 cation.

23 “(6) REVIEW OF PROGRAMS.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
25 establish a process to review the implementation

1 of a risk-based integrated inspection program  
2 by a State authority.

3 “(B) REVIEW BY INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector  
5 General shall—

6 “(I) review each risk-based inte-  
7 grated inspection program authorized  
8 by the Secretary under this subsection  
9 not later than 3 years after the date  
10 on which the relevant application is  
11 approved to determine whether the  
12 program meets the needs of pipeline  
13 safety; and

14 “(II) submit to the Secretary and  
15 the appropriate committees of Con-  
16 gress a report on that review.

17 “(ii) REQUIREMENT.—If the Inspector  
18 General determines that a risk-based inte-  
19 grated inspection program is not adequate  
20 and should be terminated, the Inspector  
21 General shall notify the Secretary and the  
22 appropriate committees of Congress.

23 “(7) TERMINATION.—

24 “(A) TERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—

25 The Secretary may terminate an authorization

1 for a State authority to carry out a risk-based  
2 integrated inspection program if—

3 “(i) the Secretary determines that the  
4 State authority is not adequately carrying  
5 out the program;

6 “(ii) the Secretary provides to the  
7 State authority—

8 “(I) a notification of the intent of  
9 the Secretary to terminate the author-  
10 ization for the State authority to  
11 carry out a risk-based integrated in-  
12 spection program;

13 “(II) a period of not less than  
14 120 days to take such corrective ac-  
15 tion as the Secretary determines to be  
16 necessary to comply with the require-  
17 ments of this section; and

18 “(III) on request of the State au-  
19 thority, a detailed description of the  
20 aspects of the program that are inad-  
21 equate; and

22 “(iii) the State authority, after the  
23 notification described in clause (ii)(I), fails  
24 to take satisfactory corrective action in ac-  
25 cordance with clause (ii)(II) before the ex-

1           piration of the period provided under that  
2           clause.

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

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

10       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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

20       (b) STUDY.—

21           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of  
22           the United States shall conduct a study to evaluate  
23           enforcement actions and the inspection scheduling  
24           and coordination practices and procedures used by—

25                   (A) the Administration;

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

3 (C) State authorities with which the Sec-  
4 retary has made an agreement under section  
5 60106(a) of that title.

6 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study under para-  
7 graph (1) shall—

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

11 (B) evaluate the extent of any—

12 (i) substantive overlap of inspections  
13 carried out by the Administration and the  
14 State partners, such that the Administra-  
15 tion and the State partners are inspecting  
16 the same operator programs and proce-  
17 dures multiple times in the same annual or  
18 biennial period;

19 (ii) substantive overlap of inspections  
20 carried out by offices in different regions,  
21 such that offices in multiple regions are in-  
22 specting the same operator programs and  
23 procedures multiple times in the same an-  
24 nual or biennial period;

1 (iii) coordination among offices in dif-  
2 ferent regions on inspection findings relat-  
3 ing to an operator before the Administra-  
4 tion decides to take any enforcement or  
5 other action against that operator;

6 (iv) coordination among offices in dif-  
7 ferent regions and between the Administra-  
8 tion and State partners on the scheduling  
9 and scoping of inspections of operators to  
10 avoid substantive overlaps;

11 (v) resolution processes for operators  
12 in cases in which offices in different re-  
13 gions, or the Administration and State  
14 partners, take different interpretive posi-  
15 tions on the same compliance issue or op-  
16 erator program; and

17 (vi) opportunities—

18 (I) to reduce substantive unneces-  
19 sary overlaps (in the process of  
20 which the Comptroller General of the  
21 United States shall identify and de-  
22 scribe any overlaps that the Comp-  
23 troller the believes are necessary);

24 (II) to avoid inconsistent inter-  
25 pretations—

1 (aa) by offices in different  
2 regions; and

3 (bb) between the Adminis-  
4 tration and State partners;

5 (III) to optimize inspection  
6 scheduling and coordination; and

7 (IV) to improve compliance with  
8 Federal pipeline safety laws; and

9 (C) review the Federal enforcement process  
10 for its ability to fairly ensure compliance with  
11 Federal pipeline safety laws.

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

21 (1) without compromising pipeline safety; and

22 (2) while improving the enforcement process.

23 (d) SUMMARY OF PIPELINE INSPECTIONS.—Not later  
24 than June 1 of each year beginning after the date of en-  
25 actment of this Act, the Administrator shall make avail-

1 able to the public in an electronically accessible format a  
2 summary of Federal and State pipeline inspections con-  
3 ducted under direct or delegated authority under title 49,  
4 United States Code, during the previous calendar year, in-  
5 cluding—

6 (1) the date of the inspection;

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

8 (3) the pipeline system or segment inspected;

9 (4) the 1 or more regions of the Administration  
10 in which the inspected system or segment operates;

11 (5) the 1 or more States in which the inspected  
12 system or segment operates;

13 (6) any violations or proposed violations alleged  
14 as a result of the inspection; and

15 (7) any enforcement actions taken.

16 **SEC. 304. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PHMSA ENGAGEMENT**  
17 **PRIOR TO RULEMAKING ACTIVITIES.**

18 It is the sense of Congress that, if the Secretary de-  
19 termines it to be appropriate, the Secretary should engage  
20 with pipeline stakeholder groups, including State pipeline  
21 safety programs with an approved certification under sec-  
22 tion 60105 of title 49, United States Code, and the public  
23 during predrafting stages of rulemaking activities—

1 (1) to inform the work of the Secretary in car-  
2 rying out the goals of chapter 601 of title 49,  
3 United States Code; and

4 (2) to reduce the timeline for issuance of pro-  
5 posed and final rules.

6 **TITLE IV—IMPROVING SAFETY**  
7 **OF EMERGING GASES**

8 **SEC. 401. STUDIES OF HYDROGEN PIPELINE TRANSPOR-**  
9 **TATION.**

10 (a) STUDY.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter  
12 into an agreement with a National Laboratory (as  
13 defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of  
14 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801))—

15 (A) to conduct a study of the safety, tech-  
16 nical, and practical considerations relating to  
17 the blending of hydrogen into existing natural  
18 gas systems;

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

21 (C) to make recommendations to the Sec-  
22 retary for how to avoid or minimize any risks  
23 identified under paragraph (2)(C).

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

4           (A) Systems that utilize a hydrogen con-  
5 tent above 5 percent to determine if there are  
6 additional restrictions or requirements for the  
7 processes, materials, and standards that the op-  
8 erators of those systems have implemented to  
9 operate those systems safely.

10           (B) Remaining knowledge gaps, if any, re-  
11 lating to safely moving hydrogen-methane  
12 blends through existing natural gas distribution  
13 systems.

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

18           (i) leak rates of hydrogen-methane  
19 blends;

20           (ii) the performance of hydrogen-  
21 methane blends in existing residential,  
22 commercial, and industrial infrastructure;  
23 and

24           (iii) underground migration of leaked  
25 hydrogen-methane blends.

1 (D) Any relevant findings or recommenda-  
2 tions of—

3 (i) the HyBlend research and develop-  
4 ment initiative commenced by the Depart-  
5 ment of Energy in 2021 for the purpose of  
6 addressing opportunities for hydrogen  
7 blending in natural gas pipelines; and

8 (ii) the study on hydrogen blending  
9 commissioned by the California Public  
10 Utilities Commission and carried out by  
11 the University of California, Riverside, en-  
12 titled “Hydrogen Blending Impacts  
13 Study”.

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

17 (b) GAO REPORT.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
19 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller  
20 General of the United States shall conduct a study  
21 on existing natural gas distribution systems that uti-  
22 lize hydrogen-natural gas blending applications, or  
23 utilize gas with a higher hydrogen content, to iden-  
24 tify processes, materials, and standards that opera-

1       tors have implemented to operate those systems  
2       safely.

3           (2) REQUIREMENT.—The study conducted  
4       under paragraph (1) shall include an examination of  
5       natural gas distribution systems currently operating  
6       in—

7                   (A) the United States;

8                   (B) Canada;

9                   (C) Europe;

10                  (D) Australia;

11                  (E) Hong Kong; and

12                  (F) any other appropriate location, as de-  
13       termined by the Comptroller General of the  
14       United States.

15           (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study  
16       under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the  
17       United States shall consider systems that utilize a  
18       hydrogen content above 5 percent to determine if  
19       there are additional restrictions or requirements for  
20       the processes, materials, and standards that the op-  
21       erators of those systems have implemented to oper-  
22       ate those systems safely.

23       (c) REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS.—

24           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
25       completion of the studies under subsections (a) and

1 (b), the Secretary shall determine whether any up-  
2 dates to regulations are necessary to ensure the  
3 safety of natural gas distribution systems inten-  
4 tionally blending hydrogen at levels exceeding 5 per-  
5 cent.

6 (2) REQUIREMENT.—If the Secretary deter-  
7 mines that updates to regulations are not necessary,  
8 the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate com-  
9 mittees of Congress a report that describes the rea-  
10 sons for that determination.

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

12 (1) authorizes the removal of the exemption for  
13 certain hydrogen pipelines described in section  
14 192.625(b)(4) of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-  
15 tions (as in effect on October 1, 2023); or

16 (2) affects—

17 (A) the authority of the Secretary under—

18 (i) section 60112 of title 49, United  
19 States Code; or

20 (ii) subsection (m) or (p) of section  
21 60117 of that title; or

22 (B) the authority of the Secretary to pre-  
23 scribe standards otherwise affecting the trans-  
24 portation of hydrogen by pipelines.

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

2 (a) **MINIMUM SAFETY STANDARDS.—**

3 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**Not later than 2 years after  
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
5 shall publish in the Federal Register a final rule  
6 pursuant to the rulemaking proceeding with Regula-  
7 tion Identifier Number 2137–AF60 after providing  
8 an opportunity for comment to ensure the safety of  
9 all phases of carbon dioxide transported in pipelines,  
10 including carbon dioxide in gaseous, liquid, and  
11 supercritical states.

12 (2) **REQUIREMENTS.—**

13 (A) **IN GENERAL.—**Any standard adopted  
14 by the final rule required under paragraph (1)  
15 shall—

16 (i) include appropriate requirements  
17 addressing updates to emergency response  
18 plans to address any risks unique to car-  
19 bon dioxide pipeline accidents or incidents;

20 (ii) include minimum safety standards  
21 applicable to each operator of a pipeline fa-  
22 cility by which carbon dioxide is trans-  
23 ported, including performing vapor disper-  
24 sion modeling to identify high consequence  
25 areas that could be affected by a release  
26 from such a pipeline facility;

1 (iii) clarify that carbon dioxide shall  
2 not be used as a testing medium for spike  
3 hydrostatic pressure testing; and

4 (iv) require carbon dioxide pipeline  
5 operators to provide information to State,  
6 local, and Tribal emergency response orga-  
7 nizations (in each jurisdiction in which a  
8 carbon dioxide pipeline facility of the oper-  
9 ator is located) on any risks unique to car-  
10 bon dioxide pipeline accidents or incidents,  
11 including by making relevant portions of  
12 emergency response plans available to first  
13 responders on request.

14 (B) VAPOR DISPERSION MODELING.—

15 Vapor dispersion modeling under subparagraph  
16 (A)(ii) shall consider—

17 (i) the topography surrounding the  
18 pipeline facility;

19 (ii) atmospheric conditions that could  
20 affect vapor dispersion; and

21 (iii) pipeline facility operating charac-  
22 teristics.

23 (C) CONSIDERATIONS.—Any standard

24 adopted by the final rule required under para-  
25 graph (1) shall consider—

1 (i) conversion of service standards;  
2 and  
3 (ii) safety-related condition reporting  
4 and leak reporting appropriate to any  
5 unique safety risks associated with carbon  
6 dioxide.

7 (b) EFFECT.—Completion of the rulemaking required  
8 under subsection (a) shall satisfy the rulemaking require-  
9 ment under section 60102(i)(2) of title 49, United States  
10 Code.

11 (c) ODORANT.—

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

17 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the  
18 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
19 submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a  
20 report describing the feasibility of adding odorant to  
21 carbon dioxide pipelines.

22 (d) ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.—The Secretary shall  
23 make available, on request, to relevant emergency re-  
24 sponders information that is tailored specifically to carbon

1 dioxide pipeline releases, including information on the po-  
 2 tential impact area and any relevant odorants.

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

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—All operators of natural gas pipe-  
 5 lines shall report to the Secretary non-predominant prod-  
 6 ucts intentionally blended and intended to exceed, at any  
 7 point in time, 2 percent by volume of the product trans-  
 8 ported by the pipeline.

9 (b) FREQUENCY.—Reports under subsection (a) shall  
 10 be required not more frequently than annually.

11 **TITLE V—IMPROVING EMER-**  
 12 **GENCY RESPONSE AND**  
 13 **TRANSPARENCY**

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

15 (a) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than  
 16 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspec-  
 17 tor General of the Department of Transportation shall re-  
 18 view—

19 (1) the findings of the study required under  
 20 section 16 of the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Cer-  
 21 tainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 (Public Law  
 22 112–90; 125 Stat. 1915); and

23 (2) the emergency response plans required  
 24 under section 60102(d)(5) of title 49, United States  
 25 Code, for operators transporting diluted bitumen oil.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—The review under subsection (a) shall  
2 determine the extent to which the response plans required  
3 under section 60102(d)(5) of title 49, United States  
4 Code—

5 (1) identify, using industry-standard names, all  
6 of the crude oils transported by the operator, includ-  
7 ing diluted bitumen;

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

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

13 (4) describe the response activities planned and  
14 resources available to mitigate the impacts of spills  
15 of diluted bitumen, if applicable, including the capa-  
16 bilities of the operator for detection, containment,  
17 and recovery of submerged and sunken oil;

18 (5) specify the procedures by which the oper-  
19 ator shall provide to the applicable On-Scene Coordi-  
20 nator (as defined in section 194.5 of title 49, Code  
21 of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation))  
22 or an equivalent State official relevant response in-  
23 formation; and

24 (6) include all spill-relevant properties and con-  
25 siderations with respect to each crude oil trans-

1 ported by the operator and identified in the response  
2 plan in accordance with paragraph (1).

3 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after com-  
4 pleting the review under subsection (a), the Inspector Gen-  
5 eral of the Department of Transportation shall submit to  
6 the appropriate committees of Congress a report that sum-  
7 marizes the findings of that review and contains any rec-  
8 ommendations of the Inspector General.

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

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—After submitting the report  
12 under subsection (c) to the committees of Congress de-  
13 scribed in that subsection, and subject to the availability  
14 of funds appropriated by Congress for the applicable pur-  
15 pose, the Secretary, in consultation with hazardous liquid  
16 pipeline sector stakeholders, may establish a center, to be  
17 known as the “National Center of Excellence for Haz-  
18 ardous Liquid Pipeline Leak Detection” (referred to in  
19 this section as the “Center of Excellence”).

20 (b) LOCATION.—The Center of Excellence shall be lo-  
21 cated—

22 (1) within the Great Lakes Basin;

23 (2) in a State that hosts an international  
24 mixed-use pipeline that transports crude oil and nat-

1 ural gas liquids where the pipeline crosses through  
2 the Great Lakes; and

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

7 (c) REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months  
9 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
10 retary shall submit to the Committees on Commerce,  
11 Science, and Transportation and Appropriations of  
12 the Senate and the Committees on Transportation  
13 and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, and Ap-  
14 propriations of the House of Representatives a re-  
15 port that describes—

16 (A) the resources necessary to establish the  
17 Center of Excellence; and

18 (B) the manner in which the Center of Ex-  
19 cellence will carry out the functions described in  
20 subsection (d).

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

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

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

4           (2) conduct research into the operational, eco-  
5           nomic, and technical feasibility of incorporating  
6           technologies reviewed under paragraph (1) into pipe-  
7           line systems;

8           (3) be a repository of information on best prac-  
9           tices relating to, and expertise on, hazardous liquid  
10          leak detection; and

11          (4) perform other duties, as determined by the  
12          Secretary, to improve leak detection for hazardous  
13          liquid pipelines.

14          (e) JOINT OPERATION WITH EDUCATIONAL INSTITU-  
15          TION.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with  
16          an institution of higher education described in subsection  
17          (b)(3)—

18               (1) to provide for joint operation of the Center  
19               of Excellence; and

20               (2) to provide necessary administrative services  
21               for the Center of Excellence.

22          (f) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date  
23          on which the Center of Excellence is established under  
24          subsection (a), the Center of Excellence shall submit to  
25          the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the

1 findings of the Center of Excellence with respect to leak  
2 detection technologies that can detect leaks at very low  
3 volumes.

4 **SEC. 503. OPERATOR FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.**

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

11 **SEC. 504. DATA AND TRANSPARENCY.**

12 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
13 of this Act, and not less frequently than annually there-  
14 after, the Secretary shall publish, on a publicly accessible  
15 website, summary data pertaining to pipeline leaks re-  
16 quired to be reported by operators in the annual reports  
17 submitted to the Administration by the operators.

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

19 Section 108 of title 49, United States Code, is  
20 amended—

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

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

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

5           “(h) OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.—

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

7           “(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
8 GRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of  
9 Congress’ has the meaning given the term in  
10 section 2 of the PIPELINE Safety Act of  
11 2025.

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

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

17           “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year  
18 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the  
19 Administrator shall establish within the Administra-  
20 tion an office, to be known as the ‘Office of Public  
21 Engagement’.

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

24           “(A) report to the Associate Administrator  
25 for Pipeline Safety; and

1           “(B) be responsible for the discharge of  
2 the functions and duties of the Office.

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

4           “(A) appoint and assign the duties of em-  
5 ployees of the Office; and

6           “(B) prioritize the hiring of individuals  
7 who have experience in community engagement,  
8 including working with the public, State, local  
9 and Tribal governments, and pipeline safety  
10 public interest groups.

11          “(5) COMMUNITY LIAISONS.—The Director  
12 shall appoint agency community liaison personnel  
13 employed as of the date on which the Office is estab-  
14 lished as employees of the Office.

15          “(6) DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE OF-  
16 FICE.—

17           “(A) COORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE.—  
18 The Director shall coordinate the provision of  
19 technical assistance and educational assistance  
20 to the public with respect to the authorities ex-  
21 ercised by the Administration.

22           “(B) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.—The Direc-  
23 tor shall coordinate active and ongoing engage-  
24 ment with the public with respect to the author-

1           ity and activities of the Administration, includ-  
2           ing by—

3                   “(i) conducting—

4                           “(I) outreach, which may include  
5                           public postings, signage at relevant  
6                           physical locations, newspaper publica-  
7                           tions, utility bill inserts, mailings,  
8                           phone calls, canvassing, and door  
9                           hangers, to communities using varied  
10                          media; and

11                          “(II) when appropriate, meetings;

12                          “(ii) assisting individuals in resolving  
13                          pipeline safety inquiries;

14                          “(iii) making publicly available, and  
15                          disseminating, information on the manner  
16                          in which members of the public may file  
17                          inquiries relating to pipeline safety;

18                          “(iv) assisting individuals in con-  
19                          tacting, as necessary, the Federal Energy  
20                          Regulatory Commission, State agencies,  
21                          and other agencies, in order to appro-  
22                          priately direct public inquiries that are not  
23                          within the jurisdiction of the Administra-  
24                          tion to the relevant agency; and

1           “(v) preparing, and making publicly  
2           available in accessible formats, educational  
3           materials about the Administration, the re-  
4           sponsibilities of the Administration, and  
5           how those responsibilities interact with en-  
6           tities under the jurisdiction of the Admin-  
7           istration and other Federal, State, local, or  
8           Tribal government agencies.”.

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

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

12           (1) review—

13               (A) the definition of confirmed discovery  
14               used by the Administration for purposes of the  
15               reporting of accidents and incidents to the Na-  
16               tional Response Center and the Secretary (in-  
17               cluding any regulations promulgated under sec-  
18               tion 9 of the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Cer-  
19               tainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 (49  
20               U.S.C. 60117 note; Public Law 112–90)), es-  
21               tablishing communication with first responders  
22               and other relevant public officials as described  
23               in section 60102(r)(1) of title 49, United States  
24               Code, providing immediate notice to the Na-  
25               tional Response Center as described in section

1 191.5 and 195.52 of title 49, Code of Federal  
2 Regulations (or any successor regulations), and  
3 any other relevant purposes; and

4 (B) for each initial notice of an accident or  
5 incident submitted to the National Response  
6 Center telephonically or electronically under  
7 section 191.5 or 195.52 of title 49, Code of  
8 Federal Regulations, during the 5-year period  
9 ending on the date of enactment of this Act—

10 (i) the time between the first signs of  
11 an accident or incident and the time at  
12 which operators determined that the acci-  
13 dent or incident met the definition of con-  
14 firmed discovery;

15 (ii) the methods that operators used  
16 to confirm that an accident or incident met  
17 that definition; and

18 (iii) the time that it took for operators  
19 to report an accident or incident after con-  
20 firming that the accident or incident met  
21 that definition; and

22 (2) submit to the appropriate committees of  
23 Congress a report that provides the findings of the  
24 review under paragraph (1), including the details de-

1 scribed in subparagraph (B) of that paragraph for  
2 each accident or incident.

3 (b) CIVIL PENALTY CONSIDERATIONS.—Section  
4 60122(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

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

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

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

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

14 “(F) advanced coordination with State,  
15 local, Tribal, and territorial governmental enti-  
16 ties resulting in the relevant and timely use of  
17 existing public alert notification systems; and”.

18 **SEC. 507. PUBLIC ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR PIPE-**

19 **LINE FACILITIES.**

20 (a) PUBLIC ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.—The  
21 Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the  
22 Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall develop  
23 voluntary guidance to assist owners and operators of pipe-  
24 line facilities with coordinating with State, local, Tribal,  
25 and territorial governmental entities to make use of exist-

1 ing public alert notification systems, such as the Inte-  
 2 grated Public Alert and Warning System of the Federal  
 3 Emergency Management Agency described in section 526  
 4 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321o)  
 5 to issue emergency alerts and appropriate guidance via  
 6 mobile phones, radio, or television in a locally targeted  
 7 area in the event of a pipeline emergency..

8 (b) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS.—Any procedures  
 9 established by an operator under subsection (a) shall be  
 10 incorporated into the emergency response plan maintained  
 11 by the operator under section 60102(d)(5) of title 49,  
 12 United States Code.

## 13 **TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS**

14 **SEC. 601. PROHIBITION ON PHMSA OPERATION, PROCURE-**  
 15 **MENT, OR CONTRACTING ACTION WITH RE-**  
 16 **SPECT TO COVERED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT**  
 17 **SYSTEMS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 448 of title 49, United  
 19 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 20 lowing:

21 **“§ 44815. Prohibition on PHMSA operation, procure-**  
 22 **ment, or contracting action with respect**  
 23 **to covered unmanned aircraft systems**

24 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           “(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term ‘Administra-  
2           tion’ means the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
3           Safety Administration.

4           “(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-  
5           trator’ means the Administrator of the Administra-  
6           tion.

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

9                   “(A) The People’s Republic of China.

10                   “(B) The Russian Federation.

11                   “(C) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

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

14                   “(E) The Bolivarian Republic of Ven-  
15           ezuela.

16                   “(F) The Republic of Cuba.

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

21                   “(A) included on the Consolidated Screen-  
22           ing List or Entity List as designated by the  
23           Secretary of Commerce;

24                   “(B) domiciled in a covered foreign coun-  
25           try; or

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

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

5           “(1) operate a covered unmanned aircraft sys-  
6 tem; or

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

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

10           “(B) with an entity that operates (as de-  
11 termined by the Secretary of Transportation) a  
12 covered unmanned aircraft system in the per-  
13 formance of any Administration contract.

14           “(c) EXEMPTION.—The restrictions under subsection  
15 (b) shall not apply if the operation, procurement, or con-  
16 tracting action is for the purpose of intelligence, electronic  
17 warfare, and information warfare operations, testing,  
18 analysis, and training.

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

1       “(e) REPLACEMENT OF COVERED UNMANNED AIR-  
2 CRAFT SYSTEMS.—Subject to available appropriations,  
3 not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this  
4 section, the Administrator shall replace any covered un-  
5 manned aircraft system that is owned or operated by the  
6 Administration as of that date of enactment with an un-  
7 manned aircraft system manufactured in the United  
8 States or an allied country (as defined in section 2350f(d)  
9 of title 10).

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

14               “(1) a description of the changes the Adminis-  
15 tration has made to its operation, procurement, and  
16 contracting processes to ensure that the Administra-  
17 tion does not acquire any covered unmanned aircraft  
18 system;

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

22                       “(A) an explanation of the purposes for  
23 which such covered unmanned aircraft systems  
24 were used;



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

2           (c) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity desiring a  
3 grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an  
4 application at such time, in such manner, and containing  
5 such information as the Secretary may require, including  
6 a description of the projects or activities proposed to be  
7 funded by the grant.

8           (d) USES.—A grant provided under this section may  
9 be used—

10           (1) to repair, rehabilitate, or replace a natural  
11 gas distribution pipeline system or portions of a nat-  
12 ural gas distribution pipeline system; or

13           (2) to acquire equipment for use in a repair, re-  
14 habilitation, or replacement project under paragraph  
15 (1).

16           (e) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish  
17 procedures for awarding grants under this section that  
18 take into consideration—

19           (1) the risk profile of the existing pipeline sys-  
20 tem, including pipe material, operated by the appli-  
21 cant; and

22           (2) supporting communities that have limited  
23 ability to invest in the infrastructure of the commu-  
24 nity through increased utility rates due to economic

1 conditions, including high poverty rates, high unem-  
2 ployment, or low median wages.

3 (f) LIMITATIONS.—

4 (1) AWARDS TO A SINGLE UTILITY.—The Sec-  
5 retary may not award more than 12.5 percent of the  
6 total amount made available to carry out this section  
7 to a single eligible entity described in subsection (b).

8 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more  
9 than 2 percent of the amounts appropriated under  
10 subsection (h)(1) for a fiscal year may be used by  
11 the Secretary for the administrative costs of car-  
12 rying out this section.

13 (3) COST SHARING.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
15 subparagraph (B), any grant provided by the  
16 Secretary under this section shall not represent  
17 more than 50 percent of the actual total cost of  
18 the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement project  
19 for which the grant is provided.

20 (B) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a grant  
21 under this section for a project in an area with  
22 a population of less than 50,000 residents,  
23 based on the most recent decennial census, the  
24 Secretary may increase the grant share of the

1 cost of the project under subparagraph (A) to  
2 not more than 80 percent.

3 (g) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than  
4 3 days before the date on which the Secretary publishes  
5 the selection of projects and activities for which a grant  
6 will be provided under this section, the Secretary shall  
7 submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
8 Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on  
9 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-  
10 resentatives a written notice that includes—

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

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

16 (h) FUNDING.—

17 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

18 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
19 retary to carry out this section \$75,000,000 for each  
20 of fiscal years 2027 through 2030, to remain avail-  
21 able until expended.

22 (2) REQUIREMENT.—Any amounts used to  
23 carry out this section—

24 (A) shall be derived from general revenues;

25 and

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

3 **SEC. 603. ISSUES AFFECTING FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED IN-**  
4 **DIAN TRIBES.**

5 (a) INDIAN AND TRIBAL DEFINITIONS.—Section  
6 60101 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by add-  
7 ing at the end the following:

8 “(c) INDIAN AND TRIBAL DEFINITIONS.—In this  
9 chapter:

10 “(1) INDIAN LAND.—The term ‘Indian land’  
11 has the meaning given the term ‘Indian lands’ in  
12 section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25  
13 U.S.C. 2703).

14 “(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’  
15 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the  
16 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
17 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).”.

18 (b) SAFETY STANDARDS AND REPORTS.—Section  
19 60102 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking “lo-  
21 cated,” and inserting “located and any affected In-  
22 dian Tribe”;

23 (2) in subsection (d)—

24 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
25 in the first sentence, by striking “and an appro-

1 appropriate State official as determined by the Sec-  
2 retary” and inserting “, an appropriate State  
3 official (as determined by the Secretary), and  
4 an appropriate Tribal official (as determined by  
5 the Secretary) from any affected Indian Tribe”;

6 (B) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-  
7 ceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “or, with  
8 respect to an affected Indian Tribe, on affected  
9 Indian land,” after “location in the State”;

10 (C) in paragraph (5)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
12 “and Tribal officials from any affected In-  
13 dian Tribe” after “State and local authori-  
14 ties”; and

15 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting  
16 “and Tribal officials from any affected In-  
17 dian Tribe” after “State and local offi-  
18 cials”; and

19 (D) in paragraph (6)—

20 (i) by inserting “or an affected Indian  
21 Tribe” after “inform a State”; and

22 (ii) by inserting “or on affected In-  
23 dian land” before the period at the end;

24 (3) in subsection (h)—

1 (A) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “the  
2 appropriate Tribe” and inserting “any affected  
3 Indian Tribe with respect to the location”; and

4 (B) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting “or  
5 Tribal official if no such commission or com-  
6 mittee exists” before the semicolon at the end;  
7 and

8 (4) in subsection (r)(1), in the matter preceding  
9 subparagraph (A), by inserting “, including Tribal  
10 officials” after “public officials”.

11 (c) INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE.—Section  
12 60108(c)(6)(C) of title 49, United States Code, is amend-  
13 ed, in the first sentence, by inserting “and Tribal officials  
14 from any affected Indian Tribe” after “to the Secretary”.

15 (d) HIGH-DENSITY POPULATION AREAS AND ENVI-  
16 RONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS.—Section 60109(e)(7)  
17 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking  
18 subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

19 “(C) DEADLINES.—

20 “(i) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN.—

21 Not later than 2 years after the date of en-  
22 actment of the PIPELINE Safety Act of  
23 2025, each operator of a distribution sys-  
24 tem shall make available to the Secretary  
25 or the relevant State authority with a cer-

1           tification in effect under section 60105, as  
2           applicable, and to any affected Indian  
3           Tribe, a copy of the emergency response  
4           plan under section 60102(d)(5).

5           “(ii) OTHER DOCUMENTS.—Not later  
6           than 2 years after the date of enactment  
7           of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025,  
8           each operator of a distribution system shall  
9           make available to the Secretary or the rel-  
10          evant State authority with a certification  
11          in effect under section 60105, as applica-  
12          ble, a copy of—

13                   “(I) the distribution integrity  
14                   management plan of the operator; and

15                   “(II) the procedural manual for  
16                   operations, maintenance, and emer-  
17                   gencies under section 60102(d)(4).

18          “(iii) UPDATES.—Not later than 60  
19          days after the date of a significant update,  
20          as determined by the Secretary, to a plan  
21          or manual described in clause (i) or (ii),  
22          the operator of the applicable distribution  
23          system shall—

24                   “(I) in the case of an emergency  
25                   response plan described in clause (i),

1 make available to the Secretary or  
2 make available for inspection to the  
3 relevant State authority described in  
4 that clause (if applicable), and make  
5 available for inspection to any affected  
6 Indian Tribe, an updated copy of the  
7 emergency response plan; and

8 “(II) in the case of a plan or  
9 manual described in clause (ii), make  
10 available to the Secretary or make  
11 available for inspection to the relevant  
12 State authority described in that  
13 clause (if applicable) an updated copy  
14 of the applicable plan or manual.

15 “(iv) APPLICABILITY OF FOIA.—Noth-  
16 ing in this subsection shall be construed to  
17 authorize the disclosure of any information  
18 that is exempt from disclosure under sec-  
19 tion 552(b) of title 5.”.

20 (e) PIPELINE FACILITIES HAZARDOUS TO LIFE AND  
21 PROPERTY.—Section 60112(c) of title 49, United States  
22 Code, is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting  
23 “and a Tribal official from any affected Indian Tribe”  
24 after “affected local officials”.

1 (f) TECHNICAL SAFETY STANDARDS COMMITTEES.—  
2 Section 60115(b)(3)(A) of title 49, United States Code,  
3 is amended by striking “and of” and inserting “, Indian  
4 Tribes, and”.

5 (g) PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—Section  
6 60116(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in the first sentence, by striking “Not later  
8 than 12 months after the date of enactment of the  
9 Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002” and in-  
10 sserting “Not later than 1 year after the date of en-  
11 actment of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025”;  
12 and

13 (2) in the second sentence, by inserting “af-  
14 fected Indian Tribes,” after “advise”.

15 (h) ADMINISTRATIVE.—Section 60117 of title 49,  
16 United States Code, is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting “and an  
18 appropriate Tribal official from any affected Indian  
19 Tribe” after “is located”;

20 (2) in subsection (i)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “Indian  
22 Tribes,” after “States,”; and

23 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “Indian  
24 Tribes,” after “local governments,”;

1           (3) in subsection (l), in the first sentence, by  
2           inserting “Indian Tribes,” after “local govern-  
3           ment,”;

4           (4) in subsection (n)(1), by inserting “Indian  
5           Tribes,” after “the States,”; and

6           (5) in subsection (p)(2)(B), by inserting “In-  
7           dian Tribes,” after “State agencies,”.

8           (i) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Section 60119(a)(1) of title  
9           49, United States Code, is amended, in the first sentence,  
10          by inserting “, including an Indian Tribe,” before “ad-  
11          versely affected”.

12          (j) EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS.—Section  
13          60125(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended,  
14          in the first sentence, by inserting “, and affected Indian  
15          Tribes,” after “local governments”.

16          (k) NATIONAL PIPELINE MAPPING SYSTEM.—Sec-  
17          tion 60132 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

18                 (1) in subsection (c), by striking “State and  
19                 local” and inserting “State, local, and Tribal”; and

20                 (2) in subsection (e), in the first sentence, by  
21                 striking “State and local” and inserting “State,  
22                 local, and Tribal”.

23          (l) COORDINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.—  
24          Section 60133 of title 49, United States Code, is amend-  
25          ed—

- 1           (1) in subsection (a)(5), by striking “and local”  
 2           and inserting “, local, and Tribal”; and  
 3           (2) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting “Tribal,”  
 4           after “State,”.

5 **SEC. 604. IDENTIFICATION OF AND JUSTIFICATION FOR**  
 6 **REDACTIONS.**

7           If the Administration redacts any portion of a docu-  
 8           ment produced to another person, the Administration shall  
 9           cite a specific statute authorizing the withholding of the  
 10          information redacted.

11 **SEC. 605. FEES FOR LOAN GUARANTEES.**

12          Section 116(d) of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline  
 13          Act (15 U.S.C. 720n(d)) is amended—

14           (1) in paragraph (1)—

15           (A) by striking “(1) The Secretary” and  
 16           inserting the following:

17           “(1) LOAN TERMS.—

18           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

19           (B) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-  
 20           ignated), in the second sentence, by striking  
 21           “The term” and inserting the following:

22           “(B) DURATION.—The term”; and

23           (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “(2) An eligi-  
 24           ble” and inserting the following:

25           “(2) FEES.—

1 “(A) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

2 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding  
3 any other provision of law, the Secretary  
4 shall charge, and collect on or after the  
5 date of the financial close of an obligation,  
6 a fee for a guarantee in an amount that  
7 the Secretary determines is sufficient to  
8 cover applicable administrative expenses  
9 (including any costs associated with third-  
10 party consultants engaged by the Sec-  
11 retary).

12 “(ii) AVAILABILITY.—Fees collected  
13 under this paragraph shall—

14 “(I) be deposited by the Sec-  
15 retary into the Treasury; and

16 “(II) remain available to the Sec-  
17 retary, without further appropriation,  
18 until expended to cover applicable ad-  
19 ministrative expenses described in  
20 clause (i).

21 “(iii) REDUCTION IN FEE AMOUNT.—  
22 Notwithstanding clause (i), and subject to  
23 the availability of appropriations, the Sec-  
24 retary may reduce the amount of a fee for  
25 a guarantee under this subparagraph.

1 “(B) DEBT OBLIGATIONS.—An eligible”.

2 **SEC. 606. IMPROVING PIPELINE CYBERSECURITY.**

3 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment  
4 of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall pub-  
5 lish in the Federal Register a final rule pursuant to the  
6 rulemaking proceeding entitled “Enhancing Surface Cyber  
7 Risk Management” (Docket Number TSA–2022–0001;  
8 Regulation Identifier Number 1652–AA74) relating to the  
9 cybersecurity of pipelines.

10 **SEC. 607. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

11 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 60101(a) of title 49,  
12 United States Code (as amended by section 212(b)), is  
13 amended—

14 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
15 striking “chapter—” and inserting “chapter:”;

16 (2) in each of paragraphs (1) through (16),  
17 (18), (19), (20), (22) (23), (25), and (27), by strik-  
18 ing the semicolon at the end of the paragraph and  
19 inserting a period;

20 (3) in paragraph (1)—

21 (A) by striking the paragraph designation  
22 and all that follows through “(A) means” in  
23 subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

24 “(1) EXISTING LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS FA-  
25 CILITY.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘existing liq-  
2           uefied natural gas facility’ means”;

3           (B) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “;  
4           but” and inserting a period; and

5           (C) in subparagraph (B)—

6           (i) by striking “(B) does not” and in-  
7           serting the following:

8           “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘existing  
9           liquefied natural gas facility’ does not”; and

10          (ii) by inserting “described in sub-  
11          paragraph (A)” after “approval”;

12          (4) in paragraph (14)—

13          (A) by striking the paragraph designation  
14          and all that follows through “(A) means” in  
15          subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

16          “(14) LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FA-  
17          CILITY.—

18                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘liquefied  
19                 natural gas pipeline facility’ means”;

20                 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;  
21                 but” and inserting a period; and

22                 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “(B)  
23                 does not” and inserting the following:

24                 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘liquefied  
25                 natural gas pipeline facility’ does not”;

1 (5) in paragraph (24) (relating to the term  
2 “Secretary”), by striking “; and” and inserting a pe-  
3 riod;

4 (6) in paragraph (27)—

5 (A) by striking the paragraph designation  
6 and all that follows through “(A) means” in  
7 subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

8 “(27) TRANSPORTING HAZARDOUS LIQUID.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘trans-  
10 porting hazardous liquid’ means”;

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

13 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “(B)  
14 does not” and inserting the following:

15 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘trans-  
16 porting hazardous liquid’ does not”; and

17 (7) in each of paragraphs (2) through (13),  
18 (15), (16), (18), (19), (20), (22) through (25), and  
19 (28)—

20 (A) by inserting “The term” after the  
21 paragraph designation; and

22 (B) by inserting a paragraph heading, the  
23 text of which comprises the term defined in the  
24 paragraph.

1       (b) REPORT.—Section 60102(b) of title 49, United  
2 States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (7).

○