

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2975

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATIONS

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

TITLE II—MODERNIZING PIPELINE SAFETY

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

TITLE III—STREAMLINING OVERSIGHT OF PIPELINES

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

TITLE IV—IMPROVING SAFETY OF EMERGING GASES

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

TITLE V—IMPROVING EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND TRANSPARENCY

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

TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS

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

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

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

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

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

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

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

(C) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(4) DOCUMENT PRODUCED TO ANOTHER PERSON.—The term “document produced to another person” means a document produced in response to a request under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Freedom of Information Act), a submission to a Federal, State, or Tribal court, information made available on a website, and a document transmitted to Congress.

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

TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 101. GAS AND HAZARDOUS LIQUID.

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

(1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

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

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

9 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

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

14 (ii) in clause (ii)—

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

17 (II) by striking “and” at the end;

18 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

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

23 (ii) in clause (ii)—

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

1 (II) by striking the period at the
 2 end and inserting a semicolon; and
 3 (D) by adding at the end the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (2) in paragraph (2)—

21 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

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

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

4 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

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

9 (ii) in clause (ii)—

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

12 (II) by striking “and” at the end;

13 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

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

18 (ii) in clause (ii)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 (1) in subsection (c)—

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

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

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

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

1 “(D) \$3,250,000 for fiscal year 2029; and
 2 “(E) \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.”;
 3 and
 4 (B) in paragraph (2)—
 5 (i) by striking “\$1,000,000”; and
 6 (ii) by striking “section.” and insert-
 7 ing the following: “section—
 8 “(A) \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
 9 “(B) \$1,250,000 for fiscal year 2027;
 10 “(C) \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2028;
 11 “(D) \$1,750,000 for fiscal year 2029; and
 12 “(E) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.”;
 13 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
 14 section (e); and
 15 (3) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
 16 lowing:
 17 “(d) DEADLINES.—
 18 “(1) NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.—Not
 19 later than 60 days after the date on which funds are
 20 made available to carry out this section, the Sec-
 21 retary shall publish a notice of funding opportunity
 22 for the funds.
 23 “(2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
 24 grant under this section, an eligible applicant shall
 25 submit to the Secretary an application—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TITLE II—MODERNIZING PIPELINE SAFETY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 “(l) UPDATING STANDARDS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 “(2) LIST OF INDUSTRY STANDARDS.—

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

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

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

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

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

6 “(4) PUBLIC ACCESS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (2) in subsection (d)—

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

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

5 “(2) DETERMINATION.—

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

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

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

21 “(h) AUTHORITY TO TERMINATE PROGRAM.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

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

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

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

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

22 (2) in subsection (b)(3)(B)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (d) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator concludes, based on the assessment under subsection (a), that composite materials provide, at a minimum, an equivalent level of safety as other pipelines under the jurisdiction of the Administration, the Administrator shall promulgate regulations, not later than 1 year after the date on which the report under subsection (c) is submitted, that allow for the use of composite materials for the transportation of new fuels.

(2) INCORPORATION OF EXISTING STANDARDS.—The regulations promulgated under paragraph (1) may include adoption or incorporation by reference of existing industry consensus standards.

SEC. 211. ELEMENTS AND EVALUATION OF STATE DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

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

(1) in subsection (b)—

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

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

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

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An”;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) by striking “In” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—The evaluation criteria used by the Secretary for determining the effectiveness of a State damage prevention program shall include consideration of whether the State, at a minimum—

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

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

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

“(ii) the organizations involved;

1 “(iii) the impact to public safety, util-
 2 ity operations, and customer service; and
 3 “(iv) the impact to the environment;
 4 and
 5 “(C) limits exemptions to State damage
 6 prevention laws.”.

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

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

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

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

17 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

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

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

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

“(3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the VIS shall be to serve as a comprehensive and integrated system—

“(A) to gather, evaluate, and quantify critical pipeline safety data and information; and

“(B) to share recommended remediation measures and lessons learned across the pipeline industry in an efficient and confidential manner.

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

“(1) the Program Manager;

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

“(3) 1 or more Issue Analysis Teams.

“(d) GOVERNING BOARD.—

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

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

“(2) COMPOSITION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Governing Board shall be composed of 15 members who shall represent a balanced cross-section of pipeline safety stakeholders, in accordance with subparagraphs (B) and (C).

“(B) REPRESENTATION.—The Governing Board shall be composed of the following members:

“(i) 5 individuals selected from relevant pipeline safety departments, agencies, or instrumentalities of the Federal Government or State or territorial governments, 1 of whom shall be the Administrator (or a designee of the Administrator).

“(ii) 5 individuals selected from the gas or hazardous liquid industries, such as individuals representing or otherwise associated with—

“(I) operators;

“(II) trade associations;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 “(III) nonprofit employee labor
 20 organizations.

21 “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—

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

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

6 “(3) TERMS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 “(4) CO-CHAIRS.—

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

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

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

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

18 “(B) RESPONSIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.—
19 The co-chairs shall be jointly responsible for or-
20 ganizing and conducting meetings of the Gov-
21 erning Board.

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

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

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

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

6 “(ii) describe—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 “(i) VIS processes;

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

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

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

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

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

24 “(i) necessary or appropriate; and

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

3 “(6) DECISIONMAKING.—

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

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

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

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

15 “(e) PROGRAM MANAGER.—

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

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

23 “(f) THIRD-PARTY DATA MANAGER.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 “(g) ISSUE ANALYSIS TEAMS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 “(i) PARTICIPATION IN THE VIS.—

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

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

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

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

4 “(B) employees of those operators;

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

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

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

10 “(F) non-destructive evaluation experts;

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

13 “(H) representatives of—

14 “(i) State pipeline safety agencies;

15 “(ii) relevant Tribal agencies;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 “(C) process improvements;

16 “(D) technology deployment practices;

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

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

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

3 “(j) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

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

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

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

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

1 “(3) EXCEPTION.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 “(k) APPLICABILITY OF FOIA.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 “(p) FUNDING.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“60144. Voluntary information-sharing system.”.

16 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

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

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

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

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

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

7 “(26) TRANSPORTING GAS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 “(I) in-plant piping systems that
 2 are located entirely on the grounds of
 3 the plant; or
 4 “(II) transfer piping systems
 5 that extend less than 1 mile in length
 6 outside the grounds of the plant.”.

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

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

12 “(f) INSPECTION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—

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

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

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

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

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each”;

2 (2) in paragraph (2)—

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

5 “(2) REVISION.—If”;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 regulations promulgated under this chap-
2 ter; and

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

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

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

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

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

23 “(I) increasing mowing height;

24 “(II) reducing mowing frequency;

25 and

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

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

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

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

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

23 “(I) native plant identification;

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

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

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

8 “(C) CONSULTATION.—

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

13 “(I) the Secretary; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (b) GEOLOGICAL HAZARD MITIGATION REPORT.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) issue a request for proposals to identify potential alternative technologies that, if used by operators, will meet the intent of an existing pipeline safety regulation and provide an equal or greater level of pipeline safety; and

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

(b) REGULATIONS.—If the Secretary determines that a technology that is commercially available would meet the intent of an existing pipeline safety regulation and provide an equal or greater level of pipeline safety, the Administrator may issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to update the relevant regulations to allow operators to adopt the use of such technology.

SEC. 217. FIRE SHUTOFF VALVES.

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

“(f) FIRE SHUTOFF VALVES OR EQUIVALENT TECHNOLOGY.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) EQUIVALENT TECHNOLOGY.—The term ‘equivalent technology’ means any technology that—

“(i) is not an excess flow valve; and

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

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

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

12 “(i) a fire shutoff valve; and

13 “(ii) any equivalent technology.

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

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

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

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

25 “(2) STUDY.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (b) WORKING GROUP REPORT.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (c) RULEMAKING.—

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

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

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

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

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

lations prescribing the applicability of the pipeline safety requirements to—

“(A) idled natural gas transmission pipelines;

“(B) idled other gas transmission pipelines; and

“(C) idled hazardous liquid pipelines.”.

SEC. 221. POTENTIAL IMPACT RADIUS.

(a) DEFINITION OF POTENTIAL IMPACT RADIUS.—

In this section, the term “potential impact radius” means the area within which the potential failure of a pipeline could have significant impact on persons or property, including injury or death.

(b) REVIEW OF METHODOLOGY.—

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

(A) the methodology, including any formulas, used by the Administration to determine a potential impact radius for onshore gas transmission pipelines; and

(B) any applicable recommendations, including any pipeline safety recommendations submitted to the Secretary or Congress by the

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

3 (2) REPORT.—

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

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

- 13 (i) available human response data;
14 (ii) accident data relating to recent
15 pipeline incidents since January 1, 2000;
16 (iii) the risk of serious injury or
17 death, or property damage, from a pipeline
18 incident; and
19 (iv) the unique characteristics of the
20 types of gas being transported.

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

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

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

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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

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

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

21 (A) a natural gas pipeline; and

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

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

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

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

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

19 **SEC. 223. ALDYL–A PIPELINES.**

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

25 (b) LIMITATION.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 “(I) cast iron;
11 “(II) unprotected steel;
12 “(III) wrought iron; or
13 “(IV) historic plastics with
14 known safety issues; and”.

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

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

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

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

25 (1) in paragraph (1)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 “(II) denying the application; or

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

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

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

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

TITLE III—STREAMLINING OVERSIGHT OF PIPELINES

SEC. 301. REGULATORY UPDATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the PIPES Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2220) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

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

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

(B) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “any other” and inserting “Any other”; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (b) DEADLINE NONCOMPLIANCE.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEC. 302. STATE USE OF INTEGRATED INSPECTIONS.

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

“(g) STATE USE OF INTEGRATED INSPECTIONS.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 “(B) shall ensure—

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

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

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

17 “(5) EVALUATION TIMELINE.—

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

23 “(i) review the application; and

24 “(ii) approve or deny the application.

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

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

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

12 “(6) REVIEW OF PROGRAMS.—

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

17 “(B) REVIEW BY INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

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

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

1 program meets the needs of pipeline
2 safety; and

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

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

12 “(7) TERMINATION.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

(2) REGION.—The term “region” means a region for which a regional office of the Administration has been established.

(3) STATE PARTNERS.—The term “State partners” means the State authorities described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (b)(1).

(b) STUDY.—

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

(A) the Administration;

(B) State authorities certified under section 60105 of title 49, United States Code; and

(C) State authorities with which the Secretary has made an agreement under section 60106(a) of that title.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) identify ways in which the Administration and States may coordinate with each other for more effective inspections and enforcement;

1 (B) evaluate the extent of any—

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

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

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

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

(v) resolution processes for operators in cases in which offices in different regions, or the Administration and State partners, take different interpretive positions on the same compliance issue or operator program; and

(vi) opportunities—

(I) to reduce substantive unnecessary overlaps (in the process of which the Comptroller General of the United States shall identify and describe any overlaps that the Comptroller the believes are necessary);

(II) to avoid inconsistent interpretations—

(aa) by offices in different regions; and

(bb) between the Administration and State partners;

(III) to optimize inspection scheduling and coordination; and

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

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

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

13 (1) without compromising pipeline safety; and

14 (2) while improving the enforcement process.

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

23 (1) the date of the inspection;

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

25 (3) the pipeline system or segment inspected;

- 1 (4) the 1 or more regions of the Administration
- 2 in which the inspected system or segment operates;
- 3 (5) the 1 or more States in which the inspected
- 4 system or segment operates;
- 5 (6) any violations or proposed violations alleged
- 6 as a result of the inspection; and
- 7 (7) any enforcement actions taken.

8 **SEC. 304. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PHMSA ENGAGEMENT**
 9 **PRIOR TO RULEMAKING ACTIVITIES.**

10 It is the sense of Congress that, if the Secretary de-
 11 termines it to be appropriate, the Secretary should engage
 12 with a broad range of pipeline stakeholder groups, includ-
 13 ing State pipeline safety programs with an approved cer-
 14 tification under section 60105 of title 49, United States
 15 Code, during predrafting stages of rulemaking activities—

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

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

21 **TITLE IV—IMPROVING SAFETY**
 22 **OF EMERGING GASES**

23 **SEC. 401. STUDIES OF HYDROGEN PIPELINE TRANSPOR-**
 24 **TATION.**

25 (a) STUDY.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 blends through existing natural gas distribution
2 systems.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 titled “Hydrogen Blending Impacts
2 Study”.

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

6 (b) GAO REPORT.—

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

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

20 (A) the United States;

21 (B) Canada;

22 (C) Europe;

23 (D) Australia;

24 (E) Hong Kong; and

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

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

12 (c) REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS.—

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

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

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

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

(2) affects—

(A) the authority of the Secretary under—

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

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

(B) the authority of the Secretary to prescribe standards otherwise affecting the transportation of hydrogen by pipelines.

SEC. 402. SAFETY OF CARBON DIOXIDE PIPELINES.

(a) MINIMUM SAFETY STANDARDS.—

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

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 (B) VAPOR DISPERSION MODELING.—

4 Vapor dispersion modeling under subparagraph

5 (A)(ii) shall consider—

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

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

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

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

15 (i) conversion of service standards;
16 and

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

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

25 (c) ODORANT.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 14 (1) within the Great Lakes Basin;
- 15 (2) in a State that hosts an international
16 mixed-use pipeline that transports crude oil and nat-
17 ural gas liquids where the pipeline crosses through
18 the Great Lakes; and
- 19 (3) in close proximity to an institution of higher
20 education with adequate capabilities, experience, and
21 expertise in researching and evaluating pipeline safe-
22 ty, including pipeline risk analyses.

23 (c) REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 “(h) OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 “(A) COORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE.—

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

10 “(B) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.—The Direc-

11 tor shall coordinate active and ongoing engage-
12 ment with the public with respect to the author-
13 ity and activities of the Administration, includ-
14 ing by—

15 “(i) conducting—

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

22 “(II) when appropriate, meetings;

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (1) review—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 **TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS**

2 **SEC. 601. PROHIBITION ON PHMSA OPERATION, PROCURE-** 3 **MENT, OR CONTRACTING ACTION WITH RE-** 4 **SPECT TO COVERED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT** 5 **SYSTEMS.**

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

9 **“§ 44815. Prohibition on PHMSA operation, procure-** 10 **ment, or contracting action with respect** 11 **to covered unmanned aircraft systems**

12 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

16 “(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-
17 trator’ means the Administrator of the Administra-
18 tion.

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

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

22 “(B) The Russian Federation.

23 “(C) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

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

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

3 “(F) The Republic of Cuba.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“(1) a description of the changes the Administration has made to its operation, procurement, and contracting processes to ensure that the Administration does not acquire any covered unmanned aircraft system;

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

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

“(B) a description of the unmanned aircraft systems that the Administrator will purchase to replace such covered unmanned aircraft systems; and

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

“(3) any other information determined appropriate by the Administrator.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 448 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 44814 the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (2) to acquire equipment for use in a repair, re-
25 habilitation, or replacement project under paragraph
26 (1).

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

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

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

12 (f) LIMITATIONS.—

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

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

23 (3) COST SHARING.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (h) FUNDING.—

1 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

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

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

8 (A) shall be derived from general revenues;
9 and

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

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

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

17 “(c) INDIAN AND TRIBAL DEFINITIONS.—In this
18 chapter:

19 “(1) INDIAN LAND.—The term ‘Indian land’
20 has the meaning given the term ‘Indian lands’ in
21 section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25
22 U.S.C. 2703).

23 “(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’
24 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the

1 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
2 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).”.

3 (b) SAFETY STANDARDS AND REPORTS.—Section
4 60102 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

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

8 (2) in subsection (d)—

9 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
10 in the first sentence, by striking “and an appro-
11 priate State official as determined by the Sec-
12 retary” and inserting “, an appropriate State
13 official (as determined by the Secretary), and
14 an appropriate Tribal official (as determined by
15 the Secretary) from any affected Indian Tribe”;

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

20 (C) in paragraph (5)—

21 (i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
22 “and Tribal officials from any affected In-
23 dian Tribe” after “State and local authori-
24 ties”; and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting
 2 “and Tribal officials from any affected In-
 3 dian Tribe” after “State and local offi-
 4 cials”; and

5 (D) in paragraph (6)—

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

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

10 (3) in subsection (h)—

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

14 (B) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting “or
 15 Tribal official if no such commission or com-
 16 mittee exists” before the semicolon at the end;
 17 and

18 (4) in subsection (r)(1), in the matter preceding
 19 subparagraph (A), by inserting “, including Tribal
 20 officials” after “public officials”.

21 (c) INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE.—Section
 22 60108(c)(6)(C) of title 49, United States Code, is amend-
 23 ed, in the first sentence, by inserting “and Tribal officials
 24 from any affected Indian Tribe” after “to the Secretary”.

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

5 “(C) DEADLINES.—

6 “(i) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN.—

7 Not later than 2 years after the date of en-
8 actment of the PIPELINE Safety Act of
9 2025, each operator of a distribution sys-
10 tem shall make available to the Secretary
11 or the relevant State authority with a cer-
12 tification in effect under section 60105, as
13 applicable, and to any affected Indian
14 Tribe, a copy of the emergency response
15 plan under section 60102(d)(5).

16 “(ii) OTHER DOCUMENTS.—Not later
17 than 2 years after the date of enactment
18 of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025,
19 each operator of a distribution system shall
20 make available to the Secretary or the rel-
21 evant State authority with a certification
22 in effect under section 60105, as applica-
23 ble, a copy of—

24 “(I) the distribution integrity
25 management plan of the operator; and

1 “(II) the procedural manual for
2 operations, maintenance, and emer-
3 gencies under section 60102(d)(4).

4 “(iii) UPDATES.—Not later than 60
5 days after the date of a significant update,
6 as determined by the Secretary, to a plan
7 or manual described in clause (i) or (ii),
8 the operator of the applicable distribution
9 system shall—

10 “(I) in the case of an emergency
11 response plan described in clause (i),
12 make available to the Secretary or
13 make available for inspection to the
14 relevant State authority described in
15 that clause (if applicable), and make
16 available for inspection to any affected
17 Indian Tribe, an updated copy of the
18 emergency response plan; and

19 “(II) in the case of a plan or
20 manual described in clause (ii), make
21 available to the Secretary or make
22 available for inspection to the relevant
23 State authority described in that
24 clause (if applicable) an updated copy
25 of the applicable plan or manual.

1 “(iv) APPLICABILITY OF FOIA.—Noth-
 2 ing in this subsection shall be construed to
 3 authorize the disclosure of any information
 4 that is exempt from disclosure under sec-
 5 tion 552(b) of title 5.”.

6 (e) PIPELINE FACILITIES HAZARDOUS TO LIFE AND
 7 PROPERTY.—Section 60112(c) of title 49, United States
 8 Code, is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting
 9 “and a Tribal official from any affected Indian Tribe”
 10 after “affected local officials”.

11 (f) TECHNICAL SAFETY STANDARDS COMMITTEES.—
 12 Section 60115(b)(3)(A) of title 49, United States Code,
 13 is amended by striking “and of” and inserting “, Indian
 14 Tribes, and”.

15 (g) PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—Section
 16 60116(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

17 (1) in the first sentence, by striking “Not later
 18 than 12 months after the date of enactment of the
 19 Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002” and in-
 20 serting “Not later than 1 year after the date of en-
 21 actment of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025”;
 22 and

23 (2) in the second sentence, by inserting “af-
 24 fected Indian Tribes,” after “advise”.

1 (h) ADMINISTRATIVE.—Section 60117 of title 49,
2 United States Code, is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting “and an
4 appropriate Tribal official from any affected Indian
5 Tribe” after “is located”;

6 (2) in subsection (i)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “Indian
8 Tribes,” after “States,”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “Indian
10 Tribes,” after “local governments,”;

11 (3) in subsection (l), in the first sentence, by
12 inserting “Indian Tribes,” after “local govern-
13 ment,”;

14 (4) in subsection (n)(1), by inserting “Indian
15 Tribes,” after “the States,”; and

16 (5) in subsection (p)(2)(B), by inserting “In-
17 dian Tribes,” after “State agencies,”.

18 (i) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Section 60119(a)(1) of title
19 49, United States Code, is amended, in the first sentence,
20 by inserting “, including an Indian Tribe,” before “ad-
21 versely affected”.

22 (j) EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS.—Section
23 60125(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended,
24 in the first sentence, by inserting “, and affected Indian
25 Tribes,” after “local governments”.

1 (k) NATIONAL PIPELINE MAPPING SYSTEM.—Sec-
 2 tion 60132 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (c), by striking “State and
 4 local” and inserting “State, local, and Tribal”; and

5 (2) in subsection (e), in the first sentence, by
 6 striking “State and local” and inserting “State,
 7 local, and Tribal”.

8 (l) COORDINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.—
 9 Section 60133 of title 49, United States Code, is amend-
 10 ed—

11 (1) in subsection (a)(5), by striking “and local”
 12 and inserting “, local, and Tribal”; and

13 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting “Tribal,”
 14 after “State,”.

15 **SEC. 604. IDENTIFICATION OF AND JUSTIFICATION FOR**
 16 **REDACTIONS.**

17 If the Administration redacts any portion of a docu-
 18 ment produced to another person, the Administration shall
 19 cite a specific statute authorizing the withholding of the
 20 information redacted.

21 **SEC. 605. FEES FOR LOAN GUARANTEES.**

22 Section 116(d) of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline
 23 Act (15 U.S.C. 720n(d)) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) by striking “(1) The Secretary” and
2 inserting the following:

3 “(1) LOAN TERMS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

5 (B) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-
6 ignated), in the second sentence, by striking
7 “The term” and inserting the following:

8 “(B) DURATION.—The term”; and

9 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “(2) An eligi-
10 ble” and inserting the following:

11 “(2) FEES.—

12 “(A) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
14 any other provision of law, the Secretary
15 shall charge, and collect on or after the
16 date of the financial close of an obligation,
17 a fee for a guarantee in an amount that
18 the Secretary determines is sufficient to
19 cover applicable administrative expenses
20 (including any costs associated with third-
21 party consultants engaged by the Sec-
22 retary).

23 “(ii) AVAILABILITY.—Fees collected
24 under this paragraph shall—

1 “(I) be deposited by the Sec-
2 retary into the Treasury; and

3 “(II) remain available to the Sec-
4 retary, without further appropriation,
5 until expended to cover applicable ad-
6 ministrative expenses described in
7 clause (i).

8 “(iii) REDUCTION IN FEE AMOUNT.—
9 Notwithstanding clause (i), and subject to
10 the availability of appropriations, the Sec-
11 retary may reduce the amount of a fee for
12 a guarantee under this subparagraph.

13 “(B) DEBT OBLIGATIONS.—An eligible”.

14 **SEC. 606. IMPROVING PIPELINE CYBERSECURITY.**

15 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
16 of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall pub-
17 lish in the Federal Register a final rule pursuant to the
18 rulemaking proceeding entitled “Enhancing Surface Cyber
19 Risk Management” (Docket Number TSA–2022–0001;
20 Regulation Identifier Number 1652–AA74) relating to the
21 cybersecurity of pipelines.

22 **SEC. 607. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

23 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 60101(a) of title 49,
24 United States Code (as amended by section 212(b)), is
25 amended—

1 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
2 striking “chapter—” and inserting “chapter:”;

3 (2) in each of paragraphs (1) through (16),
4 (18), (19), (20), (22) (23), (25), and (27), by strik-
5 ing the semicolon at the end of the paragraph and
6 inserting a period;

7 (3) in paragraph (1)—

8 (A) by striking the paragraph designation
9 and all that follows through “(A) means” in
10 subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

11 “(1) EXISTING LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS FA-
12 CILITY.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘existing liq-
14 uefied natural gas facility’ means”;

15 (B) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “;
16 but” and inserting a period; and

17 (C) in subparagraph (B)—

18 (i) by striking “(B) does not” and in-
19 serting the following:

20 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘existing
21 liquefied natural gas facility’ does not”; and

22 (ii) by inserting “described in sub-
23 paragraph (A)” after “approval”;

24 (4) in paragraph (14)—

1 (A) by striking the paragraph designation
 2 and all that follows through “(A) means” in
 3 subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

4 “(14) LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FA-
 5 CILITY.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘liquefied
 7 natural gas pipeline facility’ means”;

8 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;
 9 but” and inserting a period; and

10 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “(B)
 11 does not” and inserting the following:

12 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘liquefied
 13 natural gas pipeline facility’ does not”;

14 (5) in paragraph (24) (relating to the term
 15 “Secretary”), by striking “; and” and inserting a pe-
 16 riod;

17 (6) in paragraph (27)—

18 (A) by striking the paragraph designation
 19 and all that follows through “(A) means” in
 20 subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

21 “(27) TRANSPORTING HAZARDOUS LIQUID.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘trans-
 23 porting hazardous liquid’ means”;

24 (B) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “;
 25 but” and inserting a period; and

1 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “(B)
 2 does not” and inserting the following:

3 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘trans-
 4 porting hazardous liquid’ does not”; and
 5 (7) in each of paragraphs (2) through (13),
 6 (15), (16), (18), (19), (20), (22) through (25), and
 7 (28)—

8 (A) by inserting “The term” after the
 9 paragraph designation; and

10 (B) by inserting a paragraph heading, the
 11 text of which comprises the term defined in the
 12 paragraph.

13 (b) REPORT.—Section 60102(b) of title 49, United
 14 States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (7).

Passed the Senate April 29, 2026.

Attest:

Secretary.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2975

AN ACT

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