

Calendar No. 331

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 2975****[Report No. 119–102]**

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 6, 2025

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

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

Reported by Mr. CRUZ, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]**A BILL**

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

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

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

4 (a) ~~SHORT TITLE.—~~This Act may be cited as the
 5 “~~Pipeline Integrity, Protection, and Enhancement for~~

1 Leveraging Investments in the Nation’s Energy to assure
 2 Safety Act of 2025” or the “PIPELINE Safety Act of
 3 2025”.

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

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

TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATIONS

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

TITLE II—MODERNIZING PIPELINE SAFETY

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

TITLE III—STREAMLINING OVERSIGHT OF PIPELINES

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

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 moderniza-
 tion grants.
 Sec. 603. Issues affecting federally recognized Indian Tribes.
 Sec. 604. Identification of and justification for redactions.
 Sec. 605. Fees for loan guarantees.
 Sec. 606. Improving pipeline cybersecurity.
 Sec. 607. Technical corrections.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~(4) DOCUMENT PRODUCED TO ANOTHER PER-
SON.—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 Informa-
tion Act), a submission to a Federal, State, or Trib-
al 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)—~~

~~(A) in subparagraph (A)—~~

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

1 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking
 2 “\$63,000,000” and inserting
 3 “\$83,250,000”;

4 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

5 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
 6 by striking “\$158,500,000 for fiscal year
 7 2022” and inserting “\$190,365,000 for
 8 fiscal year 2027”; and

9 (ii) in clause (ii)—

10 (I) by striking “\$66,000,000”
 11 and inserting “\$85,660,000”; 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 “\$162,700,000 for fiscal year
 16 2023” and inserting “\$195,886,000 for
 17 fiscal year 2028”; and

18 (ii) in clause (ii)—

19 (I) by striking “\$69,000,000”
 20 and inserting “\$88,150,000”; 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) \$201,556,000 for fiscal year 2029, of

25 which—

1 “(i) \$9,000,000 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) \$90,700,000 shall be used for
 6 making grants; and

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

9 “(i) \$9,000,000 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) \$93,340,000 shall be used for
 14 making grants.”;

15 (2) in paragraph (2)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

17 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
 18 by striking “\$27,000,000 for fiscal year
 19 2021” and inserting “\$30,000,000 for fis-
 20 cal year 2026”; and

21 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking
 22 “\$11,000,000” and inserting
 23 “\$13,500,000”;

24 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

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

(ii) in clause (ii)—

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

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

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

(ii) in clause (ii)—

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

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

(D) by adding at the end the following:

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

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

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

3 “(E) 34,000,000 for fiscal year 2030, of
4 which—

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

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

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

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

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

21 (1) \$33,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

22 (2) \$34,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

23 (3) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

24 (4) \$36,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

25 (5) \$37,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.

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

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

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

11 (1) in subsection (c)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 and

25 (B) in paragraph (2)—

26 (i) by striking “\$1,000,000”; and

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

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

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

12 “(d) DEADLINES.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 “(l) UPDATING STANDARDS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 “(2) LIST OF INDUSTRY STANDARDS.—

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

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

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

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

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

1 adopting or incorporating industry consensus stand-
2 ards.

3 ~~“(4) PUBLIC ACCESS.—~~

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

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

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

“(C) PREVIOUSLY INCORPORATED STANDARDS.—For industry consensus standards incorporated or partially incorporated under this chapter before the date of enactment of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025 that are publicly available on a public-facing website at no charge to the public, the Secretary shall publish on the public website of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration the full text of the standard or a direct link to an external source where the full text is available to the public on a website.”

SEC. 204. REPORT ON UPDATES TO THE NATIONAL PIPELINE MAPPING SYSTEM.

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

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall describe—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (2) in subsection (d)—

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

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

25 “(2) DETERMINATION.—

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

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

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

16 “(h) AUTHORITY TO TERMINATE PROGRAM.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

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

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

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

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

15 (2) in subsection (b)(3)(B)—

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

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

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

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

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

3 (1) natural gas;

4 (2) natural gas liquids;

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

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

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

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

16 (d) RULEMAKING.—

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

1 composite materials for the transportation of new
2 fuels.

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

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

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

11 ~~(1) in subsection (b)—~~

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

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

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

20 ~~“(1) IN GENERAL.—An”;~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In”; and

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

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

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

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

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

16 “(ii) the organizations involved;

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

19 “(iv) the impact to the environment;
20 and

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

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

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

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

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

“§ 60144. Voluntary information-sharing system

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 “(1) the Program Manager;

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

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

13 “(d) GOVERNING BOARD.—

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

19 “(2) COMPOSITION.—

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

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

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

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

14 “(I) operators;

15 “(II) trade associations;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 “(III) nonprofit employee labor
 11 organizations.

12 “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—

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

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

22 “(3) TERMS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 “(4) CO-CHAIRS.—

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

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

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

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

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

9 ~~“(B) RESPONSIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.—~~

10 ~~The co-chairs shall be jointly responsible for or-~~
 11 ~~ganizing and conducting meetings of the Gov-~~
 12 ~~erning Board.~~

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

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

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

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

21 ~~and~~

22 ~~“(ii) describe—~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 “(i) VIS processes;

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

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

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

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

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

17 “(i) necessary or appropriate; and

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

20 “(6) DECISIONMAKING.—

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

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

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

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

8 ~~“(c) PROGRAM MANAGER.—~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 “(g) ISSUE ANALYSIS TEAMS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 “(1) the VIS;

5 “(2) the Governing Board; or

6 “(3) any Issue Analysis Team.

7 “(i) PARTICIPATION IN THE VIS.—

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

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

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

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

23 “(B) employees of those operators;

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

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

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

4 ~~“(F) non-destructive evaluation experts;~~

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

7 ~~“(H) representatives of—~~

8 ~~“(i) State pipeline safety agencies;~~

9 ~~“(ii) relevant Tribal agencies;~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 “(C) process improvements;

11 “(D) technology deployment practices;

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

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

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

23 “(j) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

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

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

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

5 and

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

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

21 “(3) EXCEPTION.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 “(k) APPLICABILITY OF FOIA.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

employees or contractors of a pipeline operator relating to a probable violation under this chapter (including any regulation promulgated or order issued under this chapter).

“(2) EXCLUSION FROM DISCOVERY.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), any nonpublic information that is accepted, stored, managed, analyzed, or produced by the VIS shall not be subject to discovery from the VIS in any Federal, State, local, Tribal, or private litigation or other proceeding.

“(3) LIMITATIONS ON EXCLUSIONS.—The exclusions described in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not apply to data or information that—

“(A) is evidence of a criminal violation;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 “(p) FUNDING.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

 “60144. Voluntary information-sharing system.”.

10 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

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

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

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

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

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

24 “(26) TRANSPORTING GAS.—

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

3 ~~(2)~~ in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “; but”
4 and inserting a period; and
5 ~~(3)~~ by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting
6 the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each”;

21 (2) in paragraph (2)—

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

24 “(2) **REVISION.**—If”;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

method 1 or more conservation practices, including—

“(i) integrated vegetation management practices, including reduced mowing;

“(ii) the development of habitat and forage for pollinators and other wildlife through seeding or planting of diverse native forbs and grasses;

“(iii) practices relating to maintenance strategies that promote early successional vegetation or limit disturbance during periods of highest use by target pollinator species and other wildlife on pipeline or facility rights-of-way, including—

“(I) increasing mowing height;

“(II) reducing mowing frequency;

and

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

“(iv) an integrated vegetation management plan that may include approaches such as mechanical tree and brush removal and targeted and judicious use of herbi-

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

“(v) planting or seeding of deeply rooted, regionally appropriate perennial grasses and wildflowers, including milkweed, to enhance habitat;

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

“(vii) obtaining expert training or assistance on wildlife- and pollinator-friendly practices, including—

“(I) native plant identification;

“(II) establishment and management of regionally appropriate native plants;

“(III) land management practices; and

“(IV) integrated vegetation management.

“(C) CONSULTATION.—

“(i) AVAILABLE GUIDANCE.—In developing alternative methods under this para-

graph, an operator shall consult any available guidance issued by—

“(I) the Secretary; or

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

“(ii) LEADING INDUSTRY PRACTICES.—In the absence of guidance described in clause (i), an operator may consult leading industry practices and guidance to develop and implement alternative methods under this paragraph.

“(D) REQUIREMENTS.—An operator using an alternative method under this paragraph shall ensure that the alternative inspection plans of the operator continue to ensure that the operator can identify risks to pipeline facilities.

“(E) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this paragraph exempts an operator from compliance with any applicable requirements under this chapter (including any regulations promulgated under this chapter).”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 (b) **GEOLOGICAL HAZARD MITIGATION REPORT.**—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 ~~“(i) a fire shutoff valve; and~~

6 ~~“(ii) any equivalent technology.~~

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

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

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

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

18 ~~“(2) STUDY.—~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 (b) WORKING GROUP REPORT.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 (c) RULEMAKING.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (a) DEFINITION OF POTENTIAL IMPACT RADIUS.—

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

25 (b) REVIEW AND UPDATE OF METHODOLOGY.—

(1) 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 National Transportation Safety Board or the Government Accountability Office.

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after completion of the review under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the findings of the review.

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

(i) available human response data;

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

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

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

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

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

16 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

1 (A) a natural gas pipeline; and

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

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

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

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

14 **SEC. 223. ALDYL-A PIPELINES.**

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

20 (b) LIMITATION.—

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

25 (a).

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 and

20 “(ii) pipelines constructed of historie
 21 plasties with known safety issues”.

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

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

4 “(I) cast iron;

5 “(II) unprotected steel;

6 “(III) wrought iron; or

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

9 **SEC. 224. IMPROVEMENTS TO PIPELINE SAFETY INTEGRITY**
 10 **MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.**

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

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

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

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

22 (1) in subsection (a)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1)—

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

25 “A final”; and

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

4 (B) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

10 (C) in paragraph (3)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 ~~(b) DEADLINE NONCOMPLIANCE.—~~

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

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

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

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

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

(B) The issuance of a final rule under section 601 with respect to the final regulations required under section 60102(q)(1) of title 49, United States Code, relating 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 CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025.

“(B) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The term ‘Inspector General’ means the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation.

“(C) RISK-BASED INTEGRATED INSPECTION PROGRAM.—The term ‘risk-based integrated inspection program’ means an inspection program that uses risk information and data to focus inspection resources on pipeline facilities and regulatory requirements that have the highest priority during an inspection.

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

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

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

17 “(B) shall ensure—

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

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

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

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

4 “(5) EVALUATION TIMELINE.—

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

10 “(i) review the application; and

11 “(ii) approve or deny the application.

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

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

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

23 “(6) REVIEW OF PROGRAMS.—

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

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

“(B) REVIEW BY INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

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

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

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

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

“(7) TERMINATION.—

“(A) TERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—

The Secretary may terminate an authorization

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

piration of the period provided under that clause.

~~“(B) TERMINATION BY A STATE AUTHORITY.—A State authority may terminate its authority to carry out a risk-based integrated inspection program at any time by providing to the Secretary a notice not later than 90 days before the date of termination.”.~~

9 SEC. 303. OPTIMIZING PIPELINE SAFETY INSPECTIONS.

10 ~~(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:~~

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

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

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

14 ~~(b) STUDY.—~~

15 ~~(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—~~

16 ~~(A) the Administration;~~

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

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

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

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

11 (B) evaluate the extent of any—

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

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

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

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

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

17 (vi) opportunities—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (1) without compromising pipeline safety; and

22 (2) while improving the enforcement process.

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

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

6 (1) the date of the inspection;

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

8 (3) the pipeline system or segment inspected;

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

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

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

15 (7) any enforcement actions taken.

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 (a) STUDY.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (b) GAO REPORT.—

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

tors have implemented to operate those systems safely.

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

~~(A)~~ the United States;

~~(B)~~ Canada;

~~(C)~~ Europe;

~~(D)~~ Australia;

~~(E)~~ Hong Kong; and

~~(F)~~ any other appropriate location, as determined by the Comptroller General of the United States.

~~(3)~~ CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study under paragraph ~~(1)~~, the Comptroller General of the United States shall consider systems that utilize a hydrogen content above 5 percent to determine if there are additional restrictions or requirements for the processes, materials, and standards that the operators of those systems have implemented to operate those systems safely.

~~(c)~~ REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS.—

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

(b), the Secretary shall determine whether any updates to regulations are necessary to ensure the safety of natural gas distribution systems intentionally blending hydrogen at levels exceeding 5 percent.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—If the Secretary determines that updates to regulations are not necessary, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the reasons for that determination.

(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.

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

2 (a) **MINIMUM SAFETY STANDARDS.—**

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

12 (2) **REQUIREMENTS.—**

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

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

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

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

(iv) require carbon dioxide pipeline operators to provide information to State, local, and Tribal emergency response organizations (in each jurisdiction in which a carbon dioxide pipeline facility of the operator is located) on any risks unique to carbon dioxide pipeline accidents or incidents, including by making relevant portions of emergency response plans available to first responders on request.

(B) VAPOR DISPERSION MODELING.—

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

(i) the topography surrounding the pipeline facility;

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

(iii) pipeline facility operating characteristics.

(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—Any standard

adopted by the final rule required under paragraph (1) shall consider—

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

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

11 (c) ODORANT.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (1) within the Great Lakes Basin;

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

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

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

7 ~~(c) REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT.—~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(h) OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025.

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

“(C) OFFICE.—The term ‘Office’ means the Office of Public Engagement of the Administration established under paragraph (2).

“(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall establish within the Administration an office, to be known as the ‘Office of Public Engagement’.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ity and activities of the Administration, including by—

“(i) conducting—

“(I) outreach, which may include public postings, signage at relevant physical locations, newspaper publications, utility bill inserts, mailings, phone calls, canvassing, and door hangers, to communities using varied media; and

“(II) when appropriate, meetings;

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

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

“(iv) assisting individuals in contacting, as necessary, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, State agencies, and other agencies, in order to appropriately direct public inquiries that are not within the jurisdiction of the Administration to the relevant agency; and

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

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

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

12 (1) review—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS

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

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

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

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) ~~ADMINISTRATION.~~—The term ‘Administra-

2 tion’ means the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials

3 Safety Administration.

4 “(2) ~~ADMINISTRATOR.~~—The term ‘Adminis-

5 trator’ means the Administrator of the Administra-

6 tion.

7 “(3) ~~COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.~~—The term

8 ‘covered foreign country’ means any of the following:

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

10 “(B) The Russian Federation.

11 “(C) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

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

13 Korea.

14 “(E) The Bolivarian Republic of Ven-

15 ezuela.

16 “(F) The Republic of Cuba.

17 “(4) ~~COVERED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYS-~~

18 ~~TEM.~~—The term ‘covered unmanned aircraft system’

19 means an unmanned aircraft system that is, or is

20 owned by an entity that is—

21 “(A) included on the Consolidated Screen-

22 ing List or Entity List as designated by the

23 Secretary of Commerce;

24 “(B) domiciled in a covered foreign coun-

25 try; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 “(B) a description of the unmanned air-
 2 craft systems that the Administrator will pur-
 3 chase to replace such covered unmanned air-
 4 craft systems; and

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

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

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

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

14 **SEC. 602. NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION PIPELINE INFRA-**
 15 **STRUCTURE SAFETY AND MODERNIZATION**
 16 **GRANTS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide grants
 18 to assist publicly owned natural gas distribution pipeline
 19 systems in repairing, rehabilitating, or replacing pipeline
 20 systems to improve pipeline safety.

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

23 (1) is owned by a community or municipality;
 24 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 ~~(f) LIMITATIONS.—~~

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

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

13 ~~(3) COST SHARING.—~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 ~~(h) FUNDING.~~—

17 ~~(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.~~—

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

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

24 ~~(A)~~ shall be derived from general revenues;
 25 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (2) in subsection (d)—

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

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

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

10 (C) in paragraph (5)—

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

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

19 (D) in paragraph (6)—

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

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

24 (3) in subsection (h)—

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

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

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

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

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

19 “(C) DEADLINES.—

20 “(i) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN.—

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

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

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

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

15 “(II) the procedural manual for
 16 operations, maintenance, and emer-
 17 gencies under section 60102(d)(4).

18 “(iii) UPDATES.—Not later than 60
 19 days after the date of a significant update,
 20 as determined by the Secretary, to a plan
 21 or manual described in clause (i) or (ii),
 22 the operator of the applicable distribution
 23 system shall—

24 “(I) in the case of an emergency
 25 response plan described in clause (i),

1 make available to the Secretary or
2 make available for inspection to the
3 relevant State authority described in
4 that clause (if applicable); and make
5 available for inspection to any affected
6 Indian Tribe, an updated copy of the
7 emergency response plan; and

8 “(II) in the case of a plan or
9 manual described in clause (ii); make
10 available to the Secretary or make
11 available for inspection to the relevant
12 State authority described in that
13 clause (if applicable) an updated copy
14 of the applicable plan or manual.

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

20 (e) PIPELINE FACILITIES HAZARDOUS TO LIFE AND
21 PROPERTY.—Section 60112(e) of title 49, United States
22 Code, is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting
23 “and a Tribal official from any affected Indian Tribe”
24 after “affected local officials”.

1 (f) ~~TECHNICAL SAFETY STANDARDS COMMITTEES.—~~

2 Section 60115(b)(3)(A) of title 49, United States Code,
3 is amended by striking “and of” and inserting “, Indian
4 Tribes, and”.

5 (g) ~~PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—~~Section
6 60116(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in the first sentence, by striking “Not later
8 than 12 months after the date of enactment of the
9 Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002” and in-
10 serting “Not later than 1 year after the date of en-
11 actment of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025”;
12 and

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

15 (h) ~~ADMINISTRATIVE.—~~Section 60117 of title 49,
16 United States Code, is amended—

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

20 (2) in subsection (i)—

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

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

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

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

6 (5) in subsection (p)(2)(B), by inserting “In-
 7 dian Tribes,” after “State agencies,”.

8 (i) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Section 60119(a)(1) of title
 9 49, United States Code, is amended, in the first sentence,
 10 by inserting “, including an Indian Tribe,” before “ad-
 11 versely affected”.

12 (j) EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS.—Section
 13 60125(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended,
 14 in the first sentence, by inserting “, and affected Indian
 15 Tribes,” after “local governments”.

16 (k) NATIONAL PIPELINE MAPPING SYSTEM.—Sec-
 17 tion 60132 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (e), by striking “State and
 19 local” and inserting “State, local, and Tribal”; and

20 (2) in subsection (e), in the first sentence, by
 21 striking “State and local” and inserting “State,
 22 local, and Tribal”.

23 (l) COORDINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.—
 24 Section 60133 of title 49, United States Code, is amend-
 25 ed—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(5), by striking “and local”
 2 and inserting “, local, and Tribal”; and
 3 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting “Tribal,”
 4 after “State,”.

5 **SEC. 604. IDENTIFICATION OF AND JUSTIFICATION FOR**
 6 **REDACTIONS.**

7 If the Administration redacts any portion of a docu-
 8 ment produced to another person, the Administration shall
 9 cite a specific statute authorizing the withholding of the
 10 information redacted.

11 **SEC. 605. FEES FOR LOAN GUARANTEES.**

12 Section 116(d) of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline
 13 Act (15 U.S.C. 720n(d)) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1)—

15 (A) by striking “(1) The Secretary” and
 16 inserting the following:

17 “(1) LOAN TERMS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

19 (B) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-
 20 ignated), in the second sentence, by striking
 21 “The term” and inserting the following:

22 “(B) DURATION.—The term”; and

23 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “(2) An eligi-
 24 ble” and inserting the following:

25 “(2) FEES.—

1 “(A) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

2 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
3 any other provision of law, the Secretary
4 shall charge, and collect on or after the
5 date of the financial close of an obligation,
6 a fee for a guarantee in an amount that
7 the Secretary determines is sufficient to
8 cover applicable administrative expenses
9 (including any costs associated with third-
10 party consultants engaged by the Sec-
11 retary).

12 “(ii) AVAILABILITY.—Fees collected
13 under this paragraph shall—

14 “(I) be deposited by the Sec-
15 retary into the Treasury; and

16 “(II) remain available to the Sec-
17 retary, without further appropriation,
18 until expended to cover applicable ad-
19 ministrative expenses described in
20 clause (i).

21 “(iii) REDUCTION IN FEE AMOUNT.—
22 Notwithstanding clause (i), and subject to
23 the availability of appropriations, the Sec-
24 retary may reduce the amount of a fee for
25 a guarantee under this subparagraph.

1 “(B) DEBT OBLIGATIONS.—An eligible”.

2 **SEC. 606. IMPROVING PIPELINE CYBERSECURITY.**

3 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
4 of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall pub-
5 lish in the Federal Register a final rule pursuant to the
6 rulemaking proceeding entitled “Enhancing Surface Cyber
7 Risk Management” (Docket Number TSA-2022-0001;
8 Regulation Identifier Number 1652-AA74) relating to the
9 cybersecurity of pipelines.

10 **SEC. 607. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

11 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 60101(a) of title 49,
12 United States Code (as amended by section 212(b)), is
13 amended—

14 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
15 striking “chapter—” and inserting “chapter.”;

16 (2) in each of paragraphs (1) through (16),
17 (18), (19), (20), (22) (23), (25), and (27), by strik-
18 ing the semicolon at the end of the paragraph and
19 inserting a period;

20 (3) in paragraph (1)—

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

24 “(1) EXISTING LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS FA-
25 CILITY.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘existing liq-
2 uefied natural gas facility’ means”;

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

5 (C) in subparagraph (B)—

6 (i) by striking “(B) does not” and in-
7 serting the following:

8 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘existing
9 liquefied natural gas facility’ does not”; and

10 (ii) by inserting “described in sub-
11 paragraph (A)” after “approval”;

12 (4) in paragraph (14)—

13 (A) by striking the paragraph designation
14 and all that follows through “(A) means” in
15 subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

16 “(14) LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FA-
17 CILTY.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘liquefied
19 natural gas pipeline facility’ means”;

20 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;
21 but” and inserting a period; and

22 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “(B)
23 does not” and inserting the following:

24 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘liquefied
25 natural gas pipeline facility’ does not”;

1 (5) in paragraph (24) (relating to the term
2 “Secretary”), by striking “; and” and inserting a pe-
3 riod;

4 (6) in paragraph (27)—

5 (A) by striking the paragraph designation
6 and all that follows through “(A) means” in
7 subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

8 “(27) TRANSPORTING HAZARDOUS LIQUID.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘trans-
10 porting hazardous liquid’ means”;

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

13 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “(B)
14 does not” and inserting the following:

15 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘trans-
16 porting hazardous liquid’ does not”; and

17 (7) in each of paragraphs (2) through (13),
18 (15), (16), (18), (19), (20), (22) through (25), and
19 (28)—

20 (A) by inserting “The term” after the
21 paragraph designation; and

22 (B) by inserting a paragraph heading, the
23 text of which comprises the term defined in the
24 paragraph.

1 (b) ~~REPORT.—Section 60102(b) of title 49, United~~
 2 ~~States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (7).~~

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

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

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATIONS

Sec. 101. Gas and hazardous liquid.

Sec. 102. Operational expenses of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

Sec. 103. Other programs.

TITLE II—MODERNIZING PIPELINE SAFETY

Sec. 201. Inspection of in-service breakout tanks.

Sec. 202. Risk assessment obligations.

Sec. 203. Timely incorporation by reference.

Sec. 204. Report on updates to the National Pipeline Mapping System.

Sec. 205. Pipeline safety enhancement programs.

Sec. 206. Technical safety standards committees.

Sec. 207. Enforcement procedures.

Sec. 208. Civil penalties.

Sec. 209. Improving whistleblower protections.

Sec. 210. Assessment of composite materials.

Sec. 211. Elements and evaluation of State damage prevention programs.

Sec. 212. Pipeline safety voluntary information-sharing system.

Sec. 213. Transporting gas.

Sec. 214. Inspection and management of rights-of-way.

Sec. 215. Geological hazards.

Sec. 216. Alternative technologies.

Sec. 217. Fire shutoff valves.

Sec. 218. Exemption from post-accident testing.

Sec. 219. Maximum allowable operating pressure records.

Sec. 220. Pipeline operating status.

Sec. 221. Potential impact radius.

Sec. 222. Effects of weather on natural gas pipelines.

Sec. 223. Aldyl-A pipelines.

Sec. 224. Improvements to pipeline safety integrity management programs.

Sec. 225. Nonemergency waivers by the Secretary.

TITLE III—STREAMLINING OVERSIGHT OF PIPELINES

Sec. 301. Regulatory updates.

Sec. 302. State use of integrated inspections.

Sec. 303. Optimizing pipeline safety inspections.

Sec. 304. Sense of Congress on PHMSA engagement prior to rulemaking activities.

TITLE IV—IMPROVING SAFETY OF EMERGING GASES

Sec. 401. Studies of hydrogen pipeline transportation.

Sec. 402. Safety of carbon dioxide pipelines.

Sec. 403. Reporting of blended products.

TITLE V—IMPROVING EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND TRANSPARENCY

Sec. 501. Bitumen oil response plan review.

Sec. 502. National Center of Excellence for Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Leak Detection.

Sec. 503. Operator financial disclosure.

Sec. 504. Data and transparency.

Sec. 505. Office of Public Engagement.

Sec. 506. Clarification of confirmed discovery.

Sec. 507. Public alert notification system for pipeline facilities.

TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 601. Prohibition on PHMSA operation, procurement, or contracting action with respect to covered unmanned aircraft systems.

Sec. 602. Natural gas distribution pipeline infrastructure safety and modernization grants.

Sec. 603. Issues affecting federally recognized Indian Tribes.

Sec. 604. Identification of and justification for redactions.

Sec. 605. Fees for loan guarantees.

Sec. 606. Improving pipeline cybersecurity.

Sec. 607. Technical corrections.

1 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

2 *In this Act:*

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

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

1 (3) *APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.*—

2 *The term “appropriate committees of Congress”*
3 *means—*

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

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

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

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

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

21 ***TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATIONS***

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

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

25 (1) *in paragraph (1)—*

1 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

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

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

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

13 (ii) in clause (ii)—

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

16 (II) by striking “and” at the end;

17 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

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

22 (ii) in clause (ii)—

23 (I) by striking “\$69,000,000” and
 24 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 fiscal
25 year 2026”; and

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

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

8 (ii) in clause (ii)—

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

11 (II) by striking “and” at the end;
12 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

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

17 (ii) in clause (ii)—

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

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

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

23 “(D) \$33,000,000 for fiscal year 2029, of
24 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 for
 16 each of fiscal years 2021 through 2023” and inserting
 17 “\$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through
 18 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 Admin-
 24 istration—

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 by
 8 striking “\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through
 9 2023 to carry out this subsection” and inserting “to carry
 10 out this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
 11 through 2030”.

12 (b) *PIPELINE SAFETY INFORMATION GRANTS TO COM-*
 13 *MUNITIES*.—Section 60130 of title 49, United States Code,
 14 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 114–
 18 183; 130 Stat. 515), the Secretary shall use
 19 \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through
 20 2023 to carry out this section.” and inserting the
 21 following: “section 60125(a)(1), the Secretary
 22 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.”; and
3 (B) in paragraph (2)—
4 (i) by striking “\$1,000,000”; and
5 (ii) by striking “section.” and insert-
6 ing the following: “section—
7 “(A) \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
8 “(B) \$1,250,000 for fiscal year 2027;
9 “(C) \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2028;
10 “(D) \$1,750,000 for fiscal year 2029; and
11 “(E) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.”;
12 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection
13 (e); and
14 (3) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
15 lowing:
16 “(d) DEADLINES.—
17 “(1) NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.—Not
18 later than 60 days after the date on which funds are
19 made available to carry out this section, the Secretary
20 shall publish a notice of funding opportunity for the
21 funds.
22 “(2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
23 grant under this section, an eligible applicant shall
24 submit to the Secretary an application—

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

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

9 “(3) *SELECTION*.—Not later than 120 days after
 10 the date on which the Secretary publishes the notice
 11 of funding opportunity under paragraph (1), the Sec-
 12 retary shall announce the selection by the Secretary
 13 of eligible applicants to receive grants in accordance
 14 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 “\$3,000,000
 19 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030, to remain”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (b) *CONSIDERATIONS.*—In revising the regulations
13 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider the Amer-
14 ican Petroleum Institute standard entitled “Tank Inspec-
15 tion, Repair, Alteration, and Reconstruction”, dated No-
16 vember 2014, and numbered API Standard 653 (Fifth Edi-
17 tion) (or a successor standard).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 *“(iii) require that an officer or em-*
 19 *ployee of the Department of Transportation*
 20 *with expertise in conducting risk assess-*
 21 *ments or cost-benefit analyses for pipeline*
 22 *facilities or other modes of transportation*
 23 *attend any meeting in which a committee*
 24 *described in clause (i) is serving as a peer*

1 *review panel with respect to that risk as-*
 2 *essment information.”.*

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

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

7 *“(l) UPDATING STANDARDS.—*

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 “(2) *LIST OF INDUSTRY STANDARDS.—*

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

10 “(i) *the determination of the Secretary*
 11 *with respect to each standard considered;*
 12 *and*

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

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

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

1 *adopting or incorporating industry consensus stand-*
2 *ards.*

3 “(4) *PUBLIC ACCESS.*—

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

16 “(B) *EXCEPTION.*—If the full text of an in-
17 *dustry consensus standard is not published on*
18 *the public website of the Pipeline and Hazardous*
19 *Materials Safety Administration or available*
20 *from that website via a direct link to an external*
21 *source where the full text is available to the pub-*
22 *lic on a website to view at no cost for the dura-*
23 *tion of time that the Secretary has the incorpo-*
24 *ration by reference available for public comment,*
25 *then the Secretary shall not incorporate or par-*

1 *tially incorporate under this chapter that indus-*
 2 *try consensus standard by reference.*

3 *“(C) PREVIOUSLY INCORPORATED STAND-*
 4 *ARDS.—For industry consensus standards incor-*
 5 *porated or partially incorporated under this*
 6 *chapter before the date of enactment of the*
 7 *PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025 that are publicly*
 8 *available on a public-facing website at no charge*
 9 *to the public, the Secretary shall publish on the*
 10 *public website of the Pipeline and Hazardous*
 11 *Materials Safety Administration the full text of*
 12 *the standard or a direct link to an external*
 13 *source where the full text is available to the pub-*
 14 *lic on a website.”.*

15 **SEC. 204. REPORT ON UPDATES TO THE NATIONAL PIPE-**
 16 **LINE MAPPING SYSTEM.**

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

22 *(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under sub-*
 23 *section (a) shall describe—*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (2) *in subsection (d)—*

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

23 (B) *by striking paragraph (2) and inserting*
 24 *the following:*

25 “(2) *DETERMINATION.*—

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

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

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

15 “(h) *AUTHORITY TO TERMINATE PROGRAM.*—

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

21 “(2) *NOTIFICATION.*—Not later than 10 days
 22 after the termination of a testing program under
 23 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall notify the relevant
 24 pipeline operators of how they can address any defi-
 25 ciencies identified by the Secretary.

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

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

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

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

12 (a) *NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS*.—Section
 13 60115(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended, in
 14 the fifth sentence, by inserting “and notify the appropriate
 15 committees of Congress (as defined in section 2 of the PIPE-
 16 LINE Safety Act of 2025)” after “the Secretary shall pub-
 17 lish the reasons”.

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

21 **SEC. 207. ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES.**

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

24 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 “(K) for civil penalties over \$1,000,000, ad-
17 justed each year for inflation, allow the respond-
18 ent to request a formal hearing in accordance
19 with section 554 of title 5, conducted by an ad-
20 ministrative law judge; and

21 “(L) provide a written response to a request
22 for the withdrawal or modification of a written
23 warning issued under this section.”.

1 (b) *HEARINGS.*—Section 60117(b) of title 49, United
 2 States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (2) and in-
 3 serting the following:

4 “(2) *HEARING REQUIREMENTS.*—A hearing
 5 under this section shall—

6 “(A) be noticed to the public on the website
 7 of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety
 8 Administration on its own page titled ‘Upcom-
 9 ing Enforcement Hearings’;

10 “(B) provide an orderly and timely process,
 11 as determined by the Secretary;

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

14 (c) *RULEMAKING.*—Not later than 1 year after the date
 15 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall update the reg-
 16 ulations prescribing protocols for all hearings under section
 17 60117 of title 49, United States Code.

18 (d) *APPLICATION.*—Section 60117(b)(1)(K) of title 49,
 19 United States Code (as added by subsection (a)(4)) shall
 20 apply only to civil penalties for violations that occur on
 21 or after the date of enactment of this Act.

22 **SEC. 208. CIVIL PENALTIES.**

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

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

3 (2) *in the third sentence, by striking*
 4 *“\$2,000,000” and inserting “\$4,000,000”.*

5 **SEC. 209. IMPROVING WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.**

6 *Section 60129 of title 49, United States Code, is*
 7 *amended—*

8 (1) *in subsection (a)(2)—*

9 (A) *in subparagraph (A), by striking “or”*
 10 *at the end;*

11 (B) *in subparagraph (B), by striking “such*
 12 *a person.” and inserting “a person described in*
 13 *subparagraph (A); or”; and*

14 (C) *by adding at the end the following:*

15 “(C) *an officer, employee, or agent of a per-*
 16 *son described in subparagraph (A).”; and*

17 (2) *in subsection (b)(3)(B)—*

18 (A) *in clause (ii), by inserting “with inter-*
 19 *est” after “back pay”; and*

20 (B) *in clause (iii), by inserting “, including*
 21 *compensation for any special damages sustained*
 22 *as a result of the discrimination” after “compen-*
 23 *satory damages to the complainant”.*

1 **SEC. 210. ASSESSMENT OF COMPOSITE MATERIALS.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Administrator shall gather and*
3 *assess any studies, data, standards, and approved applica-*
4 *tions available as of the date of enactment of this Act that*
5 *address the safety of composite materials to support the safe*
6 *transportation of—*

7 (1) *natural gas;*

8 (2) *hazardous liquids;*

9 (3) *new fuels, such as hydrogen and hydrogen*
10 *blended with natural gas; and*

11 (4) *new fluids, such as carbon dioxide.*

12 (b) *DEADLINE.*—*The assessment under subsection (a)*
13 *shall be completed not later than 1 year after the date of*
14 *enactment of this Act.*

15 (c) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 30 days after completing*
16 *the assessment under subsection (a), the Administrator shall*
17 *submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report*
18 *describing the conclusions of the assessment.*

19 (d) *RULEMAKING.*—

20 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*If the Administrator con-*
21 *cludes, based on the assessment under subsection (a),*
22 *that composite materials provide, at a minimum, an*
23 *equivalent level of safety as other pipelines under the*
24 *jurisdiction of the Administration, the Administrator*
25 *shall promulgate regulations, not later than 1 year*
26 *after the date on which the report under subsection (c)*

1 *is submitted, that allow for the use of composite mate-*
 2 *rials for the transportation of new fuels.*

3 (2) *INCORPORATION OF EXISTING STANDARDS.—*

4 *The regulations promulgated under paragraph (1)*
 5 *may include adoption or incorporation by reference of*
 6 *existing industry consensus standards.*

7 **SEC. 211. ELEMENTS AND EVALUATION OF STATE DAMAGE**
 8 **PREVENTION PROGRAMS.**

9 (a) *IN GENERAL.—Section 60134 of title 49, United*
 10 *States Code, is amended—*

11 (1) *in subsection (b)—*

12 (A) *in the subsection heading, by inserting*
 13 *“STATE” before “DAMAGE”;*

14 (B) *by redesignating paragraphs (1)*
 15 *through (9) as subparagraphs (A) through (I),*
 16 *respectively;*

17 (C) *in the matter preceding subparagraph*
 18 (A) *(as so redesignated), by striking “An” and*
 19 *inserting the following:*

20 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—An”;*

21 (D) *in paragraph (1) (as so designated)—*

22 (i) *by indenting subparagraphs (A)*
 23 *through (I) appropriately; and*

24 (ii) *by adding at the end the following:*

1 “(J) A State one-call program that in-
 2 cludes, or is making substantial progress toward
 3 including, the one-call leading practices de-
 4 scribed in paragraph (2).”; and

5 (E) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(2) ONE-CALL LEADING PRACTICES.—The one-
 7 call leading practices referred to in paragraph (1)(J)
 8 are the following:

9 “(A) Restricting the size or scope of a one-
 10 call ticket for standard locate requests (which
 11 may include process exceptions for special large
 12 project tickets).

13 “(B) Restricting the longevity of a one-call
 14 ticket for standard locate requests (which may
 15 include process exceptions for special large
 16 project tickets).

17 “(C) Specifying tolerance (soft-dig only)
 18 zone horizontal dimensions.

19 “(D) Specifying tolerance zone require-
 20 ments.

21 “(E) Specifying emergency excavation noti-
 22 fication requirements.

23 “(F) Specifying the responsibilities of exca-
 24 vators, including the reporting of damages or
 25 suspected damages.

1 “(G) *Defining who is an excavator and*
2 *what is considered excavation.*

3 “(H) *Requiring the use of white-lining.*

4 “(I) *Requiring a positive response before ex-*
5 *cavation begins, such as a utility, municipality,*
6 *or other entity that places the relevant marks*
7 *positively responding to the notification center,*
8 *and the excavator checking for that positive re-*
9 *sponse before beginning excavation.*

10 “(J) *Requiring that newly installed under-*
11 *ground facilities be locatable with commercially*
12 *available technology.*

13 “(K) *Requiring the marking of sewer lines*
14 *and laterals.*

15 “(L) *Specifying the qualifications of, and*
16 *requirements for, those excavators performing*
17 *trenchless excavation activities that are not sub-*
18 *ject to pipeline construction requirements under*
19 *part 192 or 195 of title 49, Code of Federal Reg-*
20 *ulations (or successor regulations).”; and*
21 *(2) in subsection (c)—*

22 *(A) by striking “In” and inserting the fol-*
23 *lowing:*

24 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—In*”; and

25 *(B) by adding at the end the following:*

1 “(2) *EVALUATION CRITERIA.*—*The evaluation*
 2 *criteria used by the Secretary for determining the ef-*
 3 *fectiveness of a State damage prevention program*
 4 *shall include consideration of whether the State, at a*
 5 *minimum—*

6 “(A) *engages in effective, active, and mean-*
 7 *ingful enforcement of State one-call laws, includ-*
 8 *ing the efficacy of fines and penalties;*

9 “(B) *requires reporting to the local one-call*
 10 *center of excavation damage events that affect*
 11 *pipelines and other underground facilities that*
 12 *are not privately owned, including (to the extent*
 13 *available at the time of the reporting)—*

14 “(i) *information about the nature of*
 15 *the incident, including its apparent cause;*

16 “(ii) *the organizations involved;*

17 “(iii) *the impact to public safety, util-*
 18 *ity operations, and customer service; and*

19 “(iv) *the impact to the environment;*

20 *and*

21 “(C) *limits exemptions to State damage*
 22 *prevention laws.”.*

23 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—*Section 60114(f) of*
 24 *title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “sec-*
 25 *tion 60134(b)(7)” and inserting “section 60134(b)(1)(G)”.*

1 **SEC. 212. PIPELINE SAFETY VOLUNTARY INFORMATION-**
 2 **SHARING SYSTEM.**

3 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 601 of title 49, United
 4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“§ 60144. Voluntary information-sharing system**

6 “(a) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

7 “(1) *ADMINISTRATOR.*—The term ‘Adminis-
 8 trator’ means the Administrator of the Pipeline and
 9 Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

10 “(2) *GOVERNING BOARD.*—The term ‘Governing
 11 Board’ means the governing board established under
 12 subsection (d)(1).

13 “(3) *ISSUE ANALYSIS TEAM.*—The term ‘Issue
 14 Analysis Team’ means an Issue Analysis Team estab-
 15 lished under subsection (g)(1).

16 “(4) *PROGRAM MANAGER.*—The term ‘Program
 17 Manager’ means the Program Manager described in
 18 subsection (e).

19 “(5) *THIRD-PARTY DATA MANAGER.*—The term
 20 ‘Third-Party Data Manager’ means the Third-Party
 21 Data Manager appointed under subsection (f)(1).

22 “(6) *VIS.*—The term ‘VIS’ means the voluntary
 23 information-sharing system established under sub-
 24 section (b)(1).

25 “(b) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—

1 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year after
 2 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary
 3 shall establish a confidential and nonpunitive vol-
 4 untary information-sharing system to encourage the
 5 sharing of pipeline safety data and information in
 6 order to improve the safety of gas transmission pipe-
 7 lines, gas distribution pipelines, liquefied natural gas
 8 facilities, underground natural gas storage facilities,
 9 and hazardous liquid pipelines.

10 “(2) *REQUIREMENT.*—The VIS shall be imple-
 11 mented and managed in accordance with the report
 12 entitled ‘Pipeline Safety Voluntary Information-Shar-
 13 ing System Recommendation Report’ prepared under
 14 section 10 of the PIPES Act of 2016 (49 U.S.C.
 15 60108 note; Public Law 114–183) by the Voluntary
 16 Information Sharing System Working Group con-
 17 vened under that section.

18 “(3) *PURPOSE.*—The purpose of the VIS shall be
 19 to serve as a comprehensive and integrated system—

20 “(A) to gather, evaluate, and quantify crit-
 21 ical pipeline safety data and information; and

22 “(B) to share recommended remediation
 23 measures and lessons learned across the pipeline
 24 industry in an efficient and confidential man-
 25 ner.

1 “(c) *GOVERNANCE.—The VIS shall be governed, in ac-*
 2 *cordance with this section, by the Governing Board, with*
 3 *support from—*

4 “(1) *the Program Manager;*

5 “(2) *the Third-Party Data Manager; and*

6 “(3) *1 or more Issue Analysis Teams.*

7 “(d) *GOVERNING BOARD.—*

8 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days*
 9 *after the date of enactment of this section, the Admin-*
 10 *istrator, after consulting with public, government,*
 11 *and private pipeline safety stakeholders, shall estab-*
 12 *lish a governing board for the VIS.*

13 “(2) *COMPOSITION.—*

14 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—The Governing Board*
 15 *shall be composed of 15 members who shall rep-*
 16 *resent a balanced cross-section of pipeline safety*
 17 *stakeholders, in accordance with subparagraphs*
 18 *(B) and (C).*

19 “(B) *REPRESENTATION.—The Governing*
 20 *Board shall be composed of the following mem-*
 21 *bers:*

22 “(i) *5 individuals selected from rel-*
 23 *evant pipeline safety departments, agencies,*
 24 *or instrumentalities of the Federal Govern-*
 25 *ment or State or territorial governments, 1*

1 *of whom shall be the Administrator (or a*
2 *designee of the Administrator).*

3 “(ii) 5 individuals selected from the
4 *gas or hazardous liquid industries, such as*
5 *individuals representing or otherwise associ-*
6 *ated with—*

7 “(I) operators;

8 “(II) trade associations;

9 “(III) inspection technology, coat-
10 *ing, or cathodic protection vendors;*

11 “(IV) standards development or-
12 *ganizations;*

13 “(V) research and development
14 *consortia; or*

15 “(VI) pipeline inspection organi-
16 *zations.*

17 “(iii) 5 individuals selected from gen-
18 *eral public safety advocacy organizations*
19 *with relevant pipeline safety expertise, in-*
20 *cluding—*

21 “(I) pipeline safety and environ-
22 *mental public interest groups;*

23 “(II) public institutions of higher
24 *education with pipeline safety exper-*
25 *tise; and*

1 “(III) *nonprofit employee labor*
2 *organizations.*

3 “(C) *REQUIREMENTS.—*

4 “(i) *PIPELINE INDUSTRY.—At least 1*
5 *member of the Governing Board appointed*
6 *under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall be a rep-*
7 *resentative of the pipeline industry.*

8 “(ii) *PIPELINE SAFETY PUBLIC INTER-*
9 *EST GROUPS.—At least 1 member of the*
10 *Governing Board appointed under subpara-*
11 *graph (B)(iii) shall be a representative of a*
12 *pipeline safety public interest group.*

13 “(3) *TERMS.—*

14 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in*
15 *subparagraph (B), each member of the Governing*
16 *Board shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.*

17 “(B) *INITIAL MEMBERS.—In appointing the*
18 *initial members of the Governing Board, the Ad-*
19 *ministrator shall appoint members to terms of 1,*
20 *2, or 3 years to ensure that each year there-*
21 *after—*

22 “(i) *the terms of 5 members will ex-*
23 *pire; and*

24 “(ii) *the term of not less than 1 and*
25 *not more than 2 members described in each*

1 *of clauses (i) through (iii) of paragraph*
 2 *(2)(B) will expire.*

3 “(C) *REAPPOINTMENT.*—*A member or*
 4 *former member of the Governing Board ap-*
 5 *pointed under clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph*
 6 *(2)(B) may be reappointed, but may only serve*
 7 *for a total of 3 terms.*

8 “(4) *CO-CHAIRS.*—

9 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Governing Board*
 10 *shall be co-chaired by—*

11 “(i) *the Administrator (or a designee*
 12 *of the Administrator);*

13 “(ii) *a representative of the pipeline*
 14 *industry appointed under paragraph*
 15 *(2)(B)(ii), who shall be appointed co-chair*
 16 *by the Administrator, with the advice and*
 17 *consent of the Governing Board; and*

18 “(iii) *a representative of a pipeline*
 19 *safety public interest group, who shall be*
 20 *appointed co-chair by the Administrator,*
 21 *with the advice and consent of the Gov-*
 22 *erning Board.*

23 “(B) *RESPONSIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.*—
 24 *The co-chairs shall be jointly responsible for or-*

1 *ganizing and conducting meetings of the Gov-*
 2 *erning Board.*

3 “(5) *AUTHORITY.—The Governing Board shall*
 4 *have authority—*

5 “(A) *to govern and provide strategic over-*
 6 *sight of the VIS;*

7 “(B) *to develop governance documents, in-*
 8 *cluding a charter for the Governing Board that*
 9 *shall—*

10 “(i) *be made available to the public;*
 11 *and*

12 “(ii) *describe—*

13 “(I) *the scope of the authority of*
 14 *the Governing Board; and*

15 “(II) *the objectives of the Gov-*
 16 *erning Board;*

17 “(C) *to select and appoint the Third-Party*
 18 *Data Manager in accordance with subsection (f);*

19 “(D) *to approve the criteria and procedures*
 20 *governing how the Third-Party Data Manager*
 21 *will receive and accept pipeline safety data and*
 22 *information;*

23 “(E) *to establish, and appoint members of,*
 24 *Issue Analysis Teams in accordance with sub-*
 25 *section (g);*

1 “(F) to collaborate with Issue Analysis
2 Teams to identify issues and topics to be ana-
3 lyzed by the Issue Analysis Teams;

4 “(G) to collaborate with Issue Analysis
5 Teams to specify the type of pipeline safety data
6 and information necessary for the Issue Analysis
7 Teams to analyze the issues and topics identified
8 under subparagraph (F);

9 “(H) to determine the information to be dis-
10 seminated by the VIS;

11 “(I) to determine the reports to be dissemi-
12 nated by the VIS;

13 “(J) to issue, not less frequently than annu-
14 ally, publicly available reports on—

15 “(i) VIS processes;

16 “(ii) the membership of the Governing
17 Board;

18 “(iii) issues and topics being inves-
19 tigated and analyzed by Issue Analysis
20 Teams or the Governing Board;

21 “(iv) pipeline safety data and infor-
22 mation that the VIS has requested for sub-
23 mission to the VIS; and

1 “(v) *safety trends identified by the Ad-*
 2 *ministrator, Issue Analysis Teams, or the*
 3 *Governing Board; and*

4 “(K) *to perform such other functions that*
 5 *the Governing Board determines are—*

6 “(i) *necessary or appropriate; and*

7 “(ii) *consistent with the purpose of the*
 8 *VIS described in subsection (b)(3).*

9 “(6) *DECISIONMAKING.—*

10 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—Decisions and approv-*
 11 *als of the Governing Board shall be made by a*
 12 *super-majority of the members, as described in*
 13 *subparagraph (B).*

14 “(B) *SUPERMAJORITY DESCRIBED.—A*
 15 *supermajority referred to in subparagraph (A)*
 16 *shall consist of not fewer than—*

17 “(i) *$\frac{2}{3}$ of the total members of the Gov-*
 18 *erning Board; and*

19 “(ii) *1 additional member of the Gov-*
 20 *erning Board.*

21 “(e) *PROGRAM MANAGER.—*

22 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—The Administrator (or a des-*
 23 *ignee of the Administrator) shall serve as the Pro-*
 24 *gram Manager for the VIS.*

1 “(2) *RESPONSIBILITIES.*—*The Program Manager*
 2 *shall provide the day-to-day program management*
 3 *and administrative support for the VIS, including*
 4 *oversight of the Third-Party Data Manager.*

5 “(f) *THIRD-PARTY DATA MANAGER.*—

6 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Governing Board shall*
 7 *appoint a Third-Party Data Manager to provide data*
 8 *management and data oversight services for the VIS.*

9 “(2) *QUALIFICATIONS.*—*The Third-Party Data*
 10 *Manager shall have expertise in data protection, ag-*
 11 *gregation, and analytics.*

12 “(3) *RESPONSIBILITIES.*—*In carrying out the*
 13 *services described in paragraph (1), the Third-Party*
 14 *Data Manager shall—*

15 “(A) *receive and secure pipeline safety data*
 16 *and information submitted to the VIS;*

17 “(B) *accept pipeline safety data and infor-*
 18 *mation submitted to the VIS that meets the cri-*
 19 *teria and procedures approved by the Governing*
 20 *Board under subsection (d)(5)(D);*

21 “(C) *de-identify, store, and manage pipeline*
 22 *safety data and information that is accepted by*
 23 *the VIS;*

1 “(D) collaborate with Issue Analysis Teams
2 to analyze and aggregate pipeline safety data
3 and information that is accepted by the VIS;

4 “(E) prepare reports as requested by the
5 Governing Board regarding the type of pipeline
6 safety data and information that is managed by
7 the VIS; and

8 “(F) make recommendations to the Gov-
9 erning Board regarding the management of pipe-
10 line safety data and information by the VIS, as
11 appropriate.

12 “(g) ISSUE ANALYSIS TEAMS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governing Board shall
14 establish, and appoint the members of, 1 or more
15 Issue Analysis Teams as the Governing Board deter-
16 mines to be appropriate and relevant to the pipeline
17 safety work of the VIS.

18 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—An Issue Analysis Team
19 established under paragraph (1) shall—

20 “(A) subject to subparagraph (B), consist of
21 pipeline safety technical and subject matter ex-
22 perts; and

23 “(B) may include, as appropriate, rep-
24 resentatives from public safety advocacy organi-
25 zations described in subsection (d)(2)(B)(iii).

1 “(3) *RESPONSIBILITIES.—An Issue Analysis*
 2 *Team shall—*

3 “(A) *work with the Third-Party Data Man-*
 4 *ager to aggregate and analyze pipeline safety*
 5 *data and information submitted to the VIS re-*
 6 *lating to the issues and topics analyzed by the*
 7 *Issue Analysis Team; and*

8 “(B) *submit internal reports and rec-*
 9 *ommendations to the Governing Board on those*
 10 *issues and topics.*

11 “(h) *APPLICATION OF FACA.—Chapter 10 of title 5*
 12 *(commonly referred to as the ‘Federal Advisory Committee*
 13 *Act’) shall not apply to—*

14 “(1) *the VIS;*

15 “(2) *the Governing Board; or*

16 “(3) *any Issue Analysis Team.*

17 “(i) *PARTICIPATION IN THE VIS.—*

18 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—The submission of data and*
 19 *information to the VIS by any person shall be vol-*
 20 *untary, with no person compelled to participate in,*
 21 *or to submit data or information to any person for*
 22 *inclusion in, the VIS.*

23 “(2) *REQUIREMENT.—The VIS shall not accept*
 24 *data or information relating to an operator if the op-*

erator has not authorized the submission of that data
or information for inclusion in the VIS.

“(3) *ENCOURAGING INFORMATION SHARING.*—
The Governing Board shall encourage the voluntary
sharing of pipeline safety data and information
among—

“(A) operators of gas transmission pipe-
lines, gas distribution pipelines, and hazardous
liquid pipelines;

“(B) employees of those operators;

“(C) labor unions representing those em-
ployees;

“(D) contractors of the operators described
in subparagraph (A);

“(E) in-line inspection service providers;

“(F) non-destructive evaluation experts;

“(G) the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration; and

“(H) representatives of—

“(i) State pipeline safety agencies;

“(ii) relevant Tribal agencies;

“(iii) pipeline safety public interest
groups;

“(iv) manufacturers of gas trans-
mission, gas distribution, and hazardous

1 *liquid pipeline infrastructure and equip-*
 2 *ment; and*

3 “(v) *relevant research and academic*
 4 *institutions.*

5 “(4) *LIMITATION ON INCLUSION OF DATA AND IN-*
 6 *FORMATION IN THE VIS.—Pipeline safety data and*
 7 *information accepted by the Third-Party Data Man-*
 8 *ager for inclusion in the VIS under subsection*
 9 *(f)(3)(B) shall be related to the issues and topics iden-*
 10 *tified by the Governing Board for analysis by an*
 11 *Issue Analysis Team under subsection (d)(5)(F).*

12 “(5) *TYPES OF DATA AND INFORMATION IN-*
 13 *CLUDED IN THE VIS.—Pipeline safety data and infor-*
 14 *mation accepted by the Third-Party Data Manager*
 15 *for inclusion in the VIS under subsection (f)(3)(B)*
 16 *may include—*

17 “(A) *pipeline integrity risk analysis infor-*
 18 *mation;*

19 “(B) *lessons learned from accidents and*
 20 *near misses;*

21 “(C) *process improvements;*

22 “(D) *technology deployment practices;*

23 “(E) *information obtained through VIS*
 24 *pipeline safety surveys of pipeline operator em-*
 25 *ployees, subject to the condition that such surveys*

1 are voluntarily agreed to by the pipeline oper-
2 ator;

3 “(F) pipeline safety data and information
4 which may lead to the identification of pipeline
5 safety risks, as specified by the Governing Board;
6 and

7 “(G) any other relevant data or informa-
8 tion, as determined by the Governing Board.

9 “(j) *CONFIDENTIALITY*.—

10 “(1) *IN GENERAL*.—To facilitate the sharing of
11 otherwise nonpublic pipeline safety data and infor-
12 mation with the VIS, the data and information ac-
13 cepted, stored, managed, analyzed, or produced by the
14 VIS—

15 “(A) shall be kept confidential by the VIS;
16 and

17 “(B) except as otherwise provided in this
18 section, is not subject to disclosure by the VIS
19 under any other law.

20 “(2) *PROHIBITION*.—Except as provided in
21 paragraph (3), no person, including the Program
22 Manager, the Third-Party Data Manager, any mem-
23 ber of the Governing Board, and any member of an
24 Issue Analysis Team, and no Federal, State, local, or
25 Tribal agency having or obtaining access to nonpublic

1 *information accepted, analyzed, stored, managed, or*
 2 *produced by the VIS may release or communicate*
 3 *that nonpublic information from the VIS, either in*
 4 *an identified or de-identified form, to any person who*
 5 *does not have the authority to view VIS data.*

6 “(3) *EXCEPTION.—*

7 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—*Notwithstanding para-
 8 *graphs (1) and (2) and subsections (k) and (l),*
 9 *on approval by the Governing Board under sub-*
 10 *paragraph (B), the Governing Board or the Ad-*
 11 *ministrator may disclose de-identified nonpublic*
 12 *information obtained by the VIS.*

13 “(B) *APPROVAL.—*Approval to disclose de-
 14 *identified nonpublic information under subpara-*
 15 *graph (A)—*

16 “(i) *shall be based on an analysis of*
 17 *the de-identified nonpublic information;*
 18 *and*

19 “(ii) *may, in the sole discretion of the*
 20 *Governing Board, consist of any safety*
 21 *findings or recommendations that the Gov-*
 22 *erning Board determines to publish or au-*
 23 *thorizes the Administrator to publish to im-*
 24 *prove pipeline safety.*

1 “(C) *PUBLIC REPORTS.*—*In issuing public*
 2 *reports under subsection (d)(5)(J), the Governing*
 3 *Board shall approve the disclosure of de-identi-*
 4 *fied nonpublic information obtained by the VIS*
 5 *that the Governing Board determines is nec-*
 6 *essary to adequately describe and illustrate the*
 7 *issues and topics being investigated and ana-*
 8 *lyzed by Issue Analysis Teams or the Governing*
 9 *Board.*

10 “(4) *SAVINGS PROVISION.*—*This subsection does*
 11 *not apply to public information that may be sub-*
 12 *mitted to the VIS.*

13 “(k) *APPLICABILITY OF FOIA.*—

14 “(1) *EXEMPTION.*—*Any nonpublic information*
 15 *that is accepted, stored, managed, analyzed, or pro-*
 16 *duced by the VIS and subsequently obtained by the*
 17 *Secretary or the Administrator from the VIS is ex-*
 18 *empt from the requirements of section 552 of title 5.*

19 “(2) *APPLICABILITY.*—*For purposes of para-*
 20 *graph (1), this section shall be considered to be a stat-*
 21 *ute described in section 552(b)(3)(B) of title 5.*

22 “(l) *EXCLUSION OF VIS INFORMATION IN LITIGATION*
 23 *AND OTHER PROCEEDINGS.*—

24 “(1) *EXCLUDED EVIDENCE.*—*Except as provided*
 25 *in paragraph (3), any nonpublic information that is*

1 *accepted, stored, managed, analyzed, or produced by*
 2 *the VIS may not be obtained from the VIS—*

3 “(A) *for use as evidence for any purpose in*
 4 *any Federal, State, local, Tribal, or private liti-*
 5 *gation, including any action or proceeding; or*

6 “(B) *to initiate any enforcement action or*
 7 *civil litigation against a pipeline operator or the*
 8 *employees or contractors of a pipeline operator*
 9 *relating to a probable violation under this chap-*
 10 *ter (including any regulation promulgated or*
 11 *order issued under this chapter).*

12 “(2) *EXCLUSION FROM DISCOVERY.—Except as*
 13 *provided in paragraph (3), any nonpublic informa-*
 14 *tion that is accepted, stored, managed, analyzed, or*
 15 *produced by the VIS shall not be subject to discovery*
 16 *from the VIS in any Federal, State, local, Tribal, or*
 17 *private litigation or other proceeding.*

18 “(3) *LIMITATIONS ON EXCLUSIONS.—The exclu-*
 19 *sions described in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not*
 20 *apply to data or information that—*

21 “(A) *is evidence of a criminal violation;*

22 “(B) *is not related to the purpose of the VIS*
 23 *described in subsection (b)(3);*

24 “(C) *is otherwise required to be reported to*
 25 *the Secretary under part 190, 191 (including in-*

1 *formation about an incident or accident), 192,*
 2 *194, 195, or 199 of title 49, Code of Federal Reg-*
 3 *ulations (or successor regulations);*

4 *“(D) is required to be reported to a State*
 5 *authority under State pipeline safety laws; or*

6 *“(E) is developed or obtained from a source*
 7 *other than the VIS, including through discovery*
 8 *from a person or an entity other than the VIS*
 9 *in an enforcement action or private litigation.*

10 *“(m) EFFECT ON DISCOVERY.—Except as provided in*
 11 *subsection (l)(2), nothing in this section or any rule or reg-*
 12 *ulation 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 af-*
 19 *fects 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 for
2 the VIS, including public-private partnerships;
3 and

4 “(B) to the maximum extent practicable,
5 sustainably fund the VIS through the use of those
6 sustainable funding sources.

7 “(2) *LIMITED ADDITIONAL FUNDING.*—In addi-
8 tion to the fees collected under section 60301, the Sec-
9 retary may collect an additional \$5,000,000 under
10 that section for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030
11 to establish, implement, and manage the VIS.”.

12 (b) *DEFINITIONS.*—Section 60101(a) of title 49,
13 United States Code, is amended—

14 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (17) through
15 (26) as paragraphs (18), (19), (20), (25), (26), (27),
16 (22), (23), (24), and (28), respectively, and moving
17 the paragraphs so as to appear in numerical order;

18 (2) by inserting after paragraph (16) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(17) *NONPUBLIC INFORMATION.*—The term
21 ‘nonpublic information’ means any pipeline safety
22 data or information, regardless of form or format,
23 that—

24 “(A) a company does not disclose, dissemi-
25 nate, or make available to the public; or

1 “(B) is not otherwise in the public do-
2 main.”; and

3 (3) by inserting after paragraph (20) (as so re-
4 designated) the following:

5 “(21) *PUBLIC INFORMATION*.—The term ‘public
6 information’ means any data or information, regard-
7 less of form or format, that—

8 “(A) a company discloses, disseminates, or
9 makes available to the public; or

10 “(B) is otherwise in the public domain.”.

11 (c) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT*.—The analysis for chapter
12 601 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding
13 at the end the following:

“60144. Voluntary information-sharing system.”.

14 (d) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS*.—

15 (1) Section 70012(c) of title 46, United States
16 Code, is amended by striking “section 60101(a)(18)”
17 and inserting “section 60101(a)”.

18 (2) Section 60102(q)(1) of title 49, United States
19 Code, is amended, in the matter preceding subpara-
20 graph (A), by striking “subsection (a)(21)” and in-
21 serting “subsection (a)(26)”.

22 **SEC. 213. TRANSPORTING GAS.**

23 Section 60101(a)(26) of title 49, United States Code
24 (as redesignated by section 212(b)(1)), is amended—

(1) *by striking the paragraph designation and all that follows through “(A) means” in subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:*

“(26) TRANSPORTING GAS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘transporting gas’ means”;

(2) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “; but” and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘transporting gas’ does not include—

“(i) gathering gas (except through regulated gathering lines) in a rural area outside a populated area designated by the Secretary as a nonrural area; or

“(ii) the movement of gas by the owner or operator of a plant for use as a fuel, a feedstock, or for any other purpose that directly supports plant operations through—

“(I) in-plant piping systems that are located entirely on the grounds of the plant; or

1 “(II) transfer piping systems that
 2 extend less than 1 mile in length out-
 3 side the grounds of the plant.”.

4 **SEC. 214. INSPECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF RIGHTS-OF-**
 5 **WAY.**

6 (a) *INSPECTION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY.*—Section 60108
 7 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at
 8 the end the following:

9 “(f) *INSPECTION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY.*—

10 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—When requiring an operator
 11 to inspect the surface conditions on or adjacent to a
 12 pipeline right-of-way, the Secretary shall allow the
 13 use of unmanned aircraft systems and satellites.

14 “(2) *SAVINGS PROVISION.*—Nothing in this sub-
 15 section affects any obligation to operate an unmanned
 16 aircraft system in accordance with all relevant Fed-
 17 eral laws relating to the use of unmanned aircraft
 18 systems.”.

19 (b) *MANAGEMENT OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY.*—Section
 20 60108(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1) Each”
 22 and inserting the following:

23 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Each”;

24 (2) in paragraph (2)—

1 (A) by striking “(2) If” and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(2) *REVISION.—If*”;

4 (B) by indenting subparagraphs (A)
5 through (E) appropriately; and

6 (C) in subparagraph (D), by indenting
7 clauses (i) through (iii) appropriately;

8 (3) in paragraph (3), by indenting the para-
9 graph, and each subparagraph within the paragraph,
10 appropriately; and

11 (4) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(4) *ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF MAINTAINING*
13 *RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—*

14 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—As part of the review*
15 *conducted under paragraph (3), the Secretary*
16 *shall allow for an alternative method of main-*
17 *taining rights-of-way for pipelines and other*
18 *pipeline facilities under a voluntary program*
19 *carried out by the operator if the Secretary de-*
20 *termines that the alternative method—*

21 “(i) *achieves a level of safety at least*
22 *equal to the level of safety required by the*
23 *regulations promulgated under this chapter;*
24 *and*

1 “(ii) allows for timely emergency re-
2 sponse.

3 “(B) *PURPOSE.*—An operator considering
4 implementing an alternative method described in
5 subparagraph (A) may consider incorporating
6 into the plan for implementing that method 1 or
7 more conservation practices, including—

8 “(i) integrated vegetation management
9 practices, including reduced mowing;

10 “(ii) the development of habitat and
11 forage for pollinators and other wildlife
12 through seeding or planting of diverse na-
13 tive forbs and grasses;

14 “(iii) practices relating to mainte-
15 nance strategies that promote early succes-
16 sional vegetation or limit disturbance dur-
17 ing periods of highest use by target polli-
18 nator species and other wildlife on pipeline
19 or facility rights-of-way, including—

20 “(I) increasing mowing height;

21 “(II) reducing mowing frequency;

22 and

23 “(III) refraining from mowing
24 monarch and other pollinator habitat

1 *during periods in which monarchs or*
 2 *other pollinators are present;*

3 “(iv) *an integrated vegetation manage-*
 4 *ment plan that may include approaches*
 5 *such as mechanical tree and brush removal*
 6 *and targeted and judicious use of herbicides*
 7 *and mowing to address incompatible or un-*
 8 *desirable vegetation while promoting com-*
 9 *patible and beneficial vegetation on pipeline*
 10 *and facility rights-of-way;*

11 “(v) *planting or seeding of deeply root-*
 12 *ed, regionally appropriate perennial grasses*
 13 *and wildflowers, including milkweed, to en-*
 14 *hance habitat;*

15 “(vi) *removing shallow-rooted grasses*
 16 *from planting and seeding mixes, except for*
 17 *use as nurse or cover crops; and*

18 “(vii) *obtaining expert training or as-*
 19 *sistance on wildlife- and pollinator-friendly*
 20 *practices, including—*

21 “(I) *native plant identification;*

22 “(II) *establishment and manage-*
 23 *ment of regionally appropriate native*
 24 *plants;*

1 “(III) *land management prac-*
2 *tices; and*

3 “(IV) *integrated vegetation man-*
4 *agement.*

5 “(C) *CONSULTATION.—*

6 “(i) *AVAILABLE GUIDANCE.—In devel-*
7 *oping alternative methods under this para-*
8 *graph, an operator shall consult any avail-*
9 *able guidance issued by—*

10 “(I) *the Secretary; or*

11 “(II) *an applicable State agency*
12 *carrying out compliance activities on*
13 *behalf of the Secretary in accordance*
14 *with section 60105.*

15 “(ii) *LEADING INDUSTRY PRAC-*
16 *TICES.—In the absence of guidance de-*
17 *scribed in clause (i), an operator may con-*
18 *sult leading industry practices and guid-*
19 *ance to develop and implement alternative*
20 *methods under this paragraph.*

21 “(D) *REQUIREMENTS.—An operator using*
22 *an alternative method under this paragraph*
23 *shall ensure that the alternative inspection plans*
24 *of the operator continue to ensure that the oper-*
25 *ator can identify risks to pipeline facilities.*

1 “(E) SAVINGS PROVISION.—*Nothing in this*
 2 *paragraph exempts an operator from compliance*
 3 *with any applicable requirements under this*
 4 *chapter (including any regulations promulgated*
 5 *under this chapter).”.*

6 (c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—*5 years after the*
 7 *date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the*
 8 *Department of Transportation shall initiate a review of a*
 9 *representative sample of the inspection and maintenance*
 10 *plans of operators that have utilized alternative methods of*
 11 *maintaining rights-of-way under section 60108(a)(4) of*
 12 *title 49, United States Code, to determine—*

13 (1) *whether reduced mowing has limited the abil-*
 14 *ity of pipeline operators to assess risks to pipeline fa-*
 15 *cilities;*

16 (2) *with respect to any incidents that have oc-*
 17 *curred on the relevant pipeline facilities, whether re-*
 18 *duced mowing hindered—*

19 (A) *the ability of operators to identify a*
 20 *risk that was related to the incident; or*

21 (B) *the ability for operators and emergency*
 22 *responders to respond to an incident; and*

23 (3) *whether the alternative methods of maintain-*
 24 *ing rights-of-way have impacted pipeline safety.*

1 (d) *TECHNICAL CORRECTION.*—Section 60108(e) of
 2 title 49, United States Code, is amended, in the subsection
 3 heading, by striking “IN GENERAL” and inserting “POST-
 4 INSPECTION BRIEFING AND PRELIMINARY FINDINGS”.

5 **SEC. 215. GEOLOGICAL HAZARDS.**

6 (a) *INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE PLANS.*—Section
 7 60108(a)(2)(D) of title 49, United States Code (as amended
 8 by section 214(b)(2)), is amended—

9 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

10 and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(iv) mitigation of threats posed by ge-
 13 ological hazards; and”.

14 (b) *GEOLOGICAL HAZARD MITIGATION REPORT.*—

15 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 2 years after
 16 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
 17 shall prepare a report that—

18 (A) identifies geological hazards that may
 19 cause a pipeline to move or be affected by abnor-
 20 mal external loads, including landslides, volcanic
 21 activity, earthquakes, and scouring;

22 (B) evaluates any industry consensus stand-
 23 ards or best practices relating to hazards de-
 24 scribed in subparagraph (A);

1 (C) evaluates existing Federal requirements
 2 for pipeline facility design, construction, oper-
 3 ations, maintenance, and integrity that relate to
 4 mitigation of geological hazards; and

5 (D) makes recommendations to improve geo-
 6 logical hazard mitigation based on the findings
 7 of the report.

8 (2) *SUBMISSION.*—On completion of the report
 9 under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall submit
 10 the report to the Secretary and the appropriate com-
 11 mittees of Congress.

12 (c) *REGULATORY REVIEW.*—Not later than 1 year
 13 after completion of the report under subsection (b)(1), the
 14 Secretary shall review, and may update, as appropriate,
 15 existing regulations and policy guidance that addresses the
 16 safety of gas, hazardous liquid, and carbon dioxide pipeline
 17 facilities to include consideration of threats posed by geo-
 18 logical hazards.

19 **SEC. 216. ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES.**

20 (a) *REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.*—Not later than 2
 21 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5
 22 years thereafter, the Administrator shall—

23 (1) issue a request for proposals to identify po-
 24 tential alternative technologies that, if used by opera-
 25 tors, will meet the intent of an existing pipeline safe-

1 *ty regulation and provide an equal or greater level of*
 2 *pipeline safety; and*

3 *(2) allow the public the opportunity to comment*
 4 *on those proposals.*

5 *(b) REGULATIONS.—If the Secretary determines that*
 6 *a technology that is commercially available would meet the*
 7 *intent of an existing pipeline safety regulation and provide*
 8 *an equal or greater level of pipeline safety, the Adminis-*
 9 *trator may issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to update*
 10 *the relevant regulations to allow operators to adopt the use*
 11 *of such technology.*

12 **SEC. 217. FIRE SHUTOFF VALVES.**

13 *Section 60110 of title 49, United States Code, is*
 14 *amended by adding at the end the following:*

15 *“(f) FIRE SHUTOFF VALVES OR EQUIVALENT TECH-*
 16 *NOLOGY.—*

17 *“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:*

18 *“(A) EQUIVALENT TECHNOLOGY.—The term*
 19 *‘equivalent technology’ means any technology*
 20 *that—*

21 *“(i) is not an excess flow valve; and*

22 *“(ii) meets the performance standard*
 23 *of shutting off gas on a service line of a dis-*
 24 *tribution system to a dwelling or other*
 25 *building in the event of a fire.*

1 “(B) *FIRE-FIRST IGNITION*.—The term ‘fire-
 2 *first ignition*’ means an occurrence in which a
 3 *fire originating from a foreign source causes a*
 4 *natural gas system to fail, release, or ignite.*

5 “(C) *FIRE SAFETY VALVE*.—The term ‘fire
 6 *safety valve*’ means—

7 “(i) a fire shutoff valve; and

8 “(ii) any equivalent technology.

9 “(D) *FIRE SHUTOFF VALVE*.—The term ‘fire
 10 *shutoff valve*’ means a spring-loaded plug that is
 11 *held in place by a fusible link that—*

12 “(i) is made of a low-melting-point
 13 *alloy;*

14 “(ii) is attached to a gas source; and

15 “(iii) melts when exposed to fire, caus-
 16 *ing the spring-loaded plug to close, shutting*
 17 *off the gas to a dwelling or other building*
 18 *connected to a service line of a distribution*
 19 *system.*

20 “(2) *STUDY*.—

21 “(A) *IN GENERAL*.—Not later than 2 years
 22 *after the date of enactment of this subsection, the*
 23 *Secretary shall complete a study on the effective-*
 24 *ness of fire safety valves in order to determine*
 25 *the ability of fire safety valves to improve public*

1 *safety through mitigation of secondary ignitions,*
2 *such as fire-first ignitions.*

3 “(B) *REQUIREMENTS.—The study under*
4 *subparagraph (A) shall evaluate—*

5 “(i) *various scenarios and applications*
6 *for deploying fire safety valves;*

7 “(ii) *the current incidence of fire-first*
8 *ignition of natural gas distribution pipe-*
9 *lines;*

10 “(iii) *anticipated reduction of fire-first*
11 *ignition risk under various fire safety valve*
12 *deployment scenarios, including—*

13 “(I) *lowering the likelihood of gas*
14 *ignition; and*

15 “(II) *lowering the impact and*
16 *damage of fire-first ignition incidents;*

17 “(iv) *the long-term durability, con-*
18 *struction, and effectiveness of fire safety*
19 *valves; and*

20 “(v) *the commercial availability of fire*
21 *safety valves for the pipeline industry.*

22 “(3) *RULEMAKING.—After completing the study*
23 *described in paragraph (2), the Secretary may pre-*
24 *scribe risk-based standards on the circumstances*
25 *under which an operator of a natural gas distribution*

1 *system shall be required to install fire shutoff valves*
 2 *or equivalent technologies in the system.”.*

3 **SEC. 218. EXEMPTION FROM POST-ACCIDENT TESTING.**

4 *Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of*
 5 *this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary*
 6 *of Health and Human Services, shall update the regulations*
 7 *of the Administration to provide that a covered employee*
 8 *(as defined in section 199.3 of title 49, Code of Federal Reg-*
 9 *ulations (or a successor regulation)) whose previous per-*
 10 *formance of a covered function (as defined in that section*
 11 *(or a successor regulation)) takes place outside of the time*
 12 *frame during which the use of prohibited drugs or alcohol*
 13 *can be detected by post-accident testing under section*
 14 *199.105(b) or 199.225(a), as applicable, of that title (or suc-*
 15 *cessor regulations)) is exempt from such post-accident test-*
 16 *ing.*

17 **SEC. 219. MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE OPERATING PRESSURE**
 18 **RECORDS.**

19 *(a) PREVIOUSLY TESTED TRANSMISSION LINES.—*
 20 *Until the report required under subsection (b)(1) and the*
 21 *rulemaking required under subsection (c) (if determined*
 22 *necessary by the Secretary) are completed, the Secretary*
 23 *shall not require an owner or operator of a pipeline facility*
 24 *to reconfirm the maximum allowable operating pressure of*
 25 *a natural gas transmission pipeline pursuant to section*

1 192.624 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or a suc-
 2 cessor regulation), if the owner or operator confirms the ma-
 3 terial strength of the pipeline through prior testing con-
 4 ducted to a sufficient minimum pressure in accordance with
 5 prevailing safety standards and practices, including any
 6 applicable class location factors, and documented in con-
 7 temporaneous records.

8 (b) WORKING GROUP REPORT.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall direct the
 10 existing maximum allowable operating pressure work-
 11 ing group of the Administration (referred to in this
 12 subsection as the “working group”) to continue pro-
 13 ducing a report containing recommendations on the
 14 contemporaneous records that are sufficient to con-
 15 firm the material strength of a natural gas trans-
 16 mission pipeline through prior testing.

17 (2) COMPOSITION OF WORKING GROUP.—For
 18 purposes of carrying out paragraph (1), the working
 19 group shall be composed of the members representing
 20 the same stakeholders of the working group as of Jan-
 21 uary 1, 2025.

22 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In preparing the report
 23 required under paragraph (1), the working group—

24 (A) shall consider historical practices and
 25 all available research conducted regarding min-

imum pressure and contemporaneous records on transmission pipelines;

(B) may consider the need for any additional research or analyses necessary to demonstrate the adequacy of any strength testing performed; and

(C) shall consider the investigation, report, and recommendations of the National Transportation Safety Board following the San Bruno pipeline explosion.

(4) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall submit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress the report produced under paragraph (1), including any minority views.

(c) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after receiving the report described in subsection (b)(1), if the Secretary determines necessary, the Secretary, after providing notice and opportunity for comment, shall promulgate standards revising the requirements addressing the records necessary to confirm the maximum allowable operating pressure of a natural gas transmission pipeline segment.

1 (2) *LIMITATIONS.*—*The rulemaking under para-*
 2 *graph (1) shall not delay the date by which pipeline*
 3 *operators must comply with maximum allowable op-*
 4 *erating pressure reconfirmation regulations with re-*
 5 *spect to their natural gas transmission pipeline seg-*
 6 *ments under section 192.624 of title 49, Code of Fed-*
 7 *eral Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment*
 8 *of this Act).*

9 **SEC. 220. PIPELINE OPERATING STATUS.**

10 *Section 60143(b) of title 49, United States Code, is*
 11 *amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the fol-*
 12 *lowing:*

13 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 90 days after*
 14 *the date of enactment of the PIPELINE Safety Act*
 15 *of 2025, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations*
 16 *prescribing the applicability of the pipeline safety re-*
 17 *quirements to—*

18 “(A) *idled natural gas transmission pipe-*
 19 *lines;*

20 “(B) *idled other gas transmission pipelines;*
 21 *and*

22 “(C) *idled hazardous liquid pipelines.*”.

23 **SEC. 221. POTENTIAL IMPACT RADIUS.**

24 (a) *DEFINITION OF POTENTIAL IMPACT RADIUS.*—*In*
 25 *this section, the term “potential impact radius” means the*

1 *area within which the potential failure of a pipeline could*
 2 *have significant impact on persons or property, including*
 3 *injury or death.*

4 *(b) REVIEW OF METHODOLOGY.—*

5 *(1) REVIEW.—Not later than 3 years after the*
 6 *date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall re-*
 7 *view—*

8 *(A) the methodology, including any for-*
 9 *mulas, used by the Administration to determine*
 10 *a potential impact radius for onshore gas trans-*
 11 *mission pipelines; and*

12 *(B) any applicable recommendations, in-*
 13 *cluding any pipeline safety recommendations*
 14 *submitted to the Secretary or Congress by the*
 15 *National Transportation Safety Board or the*
 16 *Government Accountability Office.*

17 *(2) REPORT.—*

18 *(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days*
 19 *after completion of the review under paragraph*
 20 *(1), the Secretary shall submit to the appro-*
 21 *priate committees of Congress a report detailing*
 22 *the findings of the review.*

23 *(B) REQUIREMENT.—The report under sub-*
 24 *paragraph (A) shall evaluate whether the meth-*

1 odology reviewed under paragraph (1)(A) ac-
2 counts for—

3 (i) available human response data;

4 (ii) accident data relating to recent
5 pipeline incidents since January 1, 2000;

6 (iii) the risk of serious injury or death,
7 or property damage, from a pipeline inci-
8 dent; and

9 (iv) the unique characteristics of the
10 types of gas being transported.

11 (c) *INVESTIGATION REPORTS.*—Beginning not later
12 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, any
13 Pipeline Failure Investigation reports prepared by the Ac-
14 cident Investigation Division of the Administration for ac-
15 cidents involving onshore gas transmission pipelines shall
16 identify the location and distance from the pipeline of dam-
17 age, including injuries and property damage, outside of the
18 potential impact radius determined for the pipeline.

19 **SEC. 222. EFFECTS OF WEATHER ON NATURAL GAS PIPE-**
20 **LINES.**

21 (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

22 (1) *APPLICABLE WEATHER EVENT.*—The term
23 “applicable weather event” means—

24 (A) a relevant weather-related event de-
25 scribed in the definition of the term “major dis-

1 *aster” in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford*
 2 *Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act*
 3 *(42 U.S.C. 5122) that has the potential to im-*
 4 *pact the safety of a natural gas pipeline facility;*

5 *(B) the February 2021 winter storm known*
 6 *as “Winter Storm Uri”; and*

7 *(C) the December 2022 winter storm known*
 8 *as “Winter Storm Elliott”.*

9 (2) *NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FACILITY.*—*The*
 10 *term “natural gas pipeline facility” means—*

11 *(A) a natural gas pipeline; and*

12 *(B) any related pipeline facility, equip-*
 13 *ment, or infrastructure.*

14 (b) *REVIEW AND REPORT.*—*Not later than 1 year after*
 15 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—*

16 *(1) complete a review of the effects of applicable*
 17 *weather events on natural gas pipeline facilities to de-*
 18 *termine whether applicable weather events pose a risk*
 19 *to safety during and after the applicable weather*
 20 *event; and*

21 *(2) submit to the appropriate committees of Con-*
 22 *gress a report on the results of that review.*

23 (c) *DISTRIBUTION INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT PLANS.*—
 24 *Not later than 90 days after the date on which the report*
 25 *under subsection (b)(2) is submitted, the Secretary shall re-*

1 *view the distribution integrity management plans relating*
 2 *to pipelines that are at increased risk of applicable weather*
 3 *events to ensure that the owners and operators of those pipe-*
 4 *lines are mitigating the effects of applicable weather events*
 5 *to ensure public safety.*

6 **SEC. 223. ALDYL-A PIPELINES.**

7 (a) *ASSESSMENT OF ALDYL-A POLYETHYLENE PIP-*
 8 *ING.*—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment
 9 *of this Act, each owner or operator of a gas distribution*
 10 *pipeline facility shall assess its system for the presence of*
 11 *Aldyl-A polyethylene.*

12 (b) *LIMITATION.*—

13 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall not re-
 14 *quire owners and operators of gas distribution pipe-*
 15 *line facilities to conduct excavation activities for the*
 16 *purpose of the assessment required under subsection*
 17 *(a).*

18 (2) *SAVINGS PROVISION.*—Nothing in this sub-
 19 *section affects the authority of the Secretary under—*

20 (A) *section 60112 of title 49, United States*
 21 *Code; or*

22 (B) *subsection (m) or (p) of section 60117*
 23 *of that title.*

24 (c) *REPORTING.*—Not later than 3 years after the date
 25 *of enactment of this Act, each owner or operator of a pipe-*

1 *line facility described in subsection (a) shall submit to the*
 2 *Secretary the estimated total pipeline mileage identified by*
 3 *the owner or operator as Aldyl-A polyethylene piping.*

4 (d) *STATE PIPELINE SAFETY PROGRAM CERTIFI-*
 5 *CATIONS.—Section 60105(b)(9)(A) of title 49, United States*
 6 *Code, is amended by striking “of cast iron and bare steel*
 7 *pipelines” and inserting the following: “of—*

8 *“(i) cast iron and bare steel pipelines;*

9 *and*

10 *“(ii) pipelines constructed of historic*
 11 *plastics with known safety issues”.*

12 (e) *EVALUATION OF RISK IN DISTRIBUTION INTEGRITY*
 13 *MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.—Section 60109(e)(7)(A)(i) of*
 14 *title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “pres-*
 15 *ence of cast iron pipes and mains in the distribution sys-*
 16 *tem; and” and inserting the following: “presence, in the dis-*
 17 *tribution system, of pipes and mains made of—*

18 *“(I) cast iron;*

19 *“(II) unprotected steel;*

20 *“(III) wrought iron; or*

21 *“(IV) historic plastics with known*
 22 *safety issues; and”.*

1 **SEC. 224. IMPROVEMENTS TO PIPELINE SAFETY INTEGRITY**
 2 **MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.**

3 *The Secretary shall conduct research into the use of*
 4 *quantitative data and modeling to assess whether the use*
 5 *of such data or modeling in the integrity management pro-*
 6 *grams of operators would improve the estimation of costs*
 7 *and benefits of risk reduction measures.*

8 **SEC. 225. NONEMERGENCY WAIVERS BY THE SECRETARY.**

9 *Section 60118(c) of title 49, United States Code, is*
 10 *amended—*

11 *(1) in paragraph (1)—*

12 *(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “not*
 13 *inconsistent” and inserting “consistent”;*

14 *(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and*
 15 *comment” after “only after notice”; and*

16 *(C) by adding at the end the following:*

17 *“(C) ACTION ON APPLICATION.—Not later*
 18 *than 180 days after receiving an application for*
 19 *a waiver under this paragraph, the Secretary*
 20 *shall—*

21 *“(i) complete any applicable review re-*
 22 *lating to the application and act on the ap-*
 23 *plication by—*

24 *“(I) issuing an order granting the*
 25 *waiver; or*

26 *“(II) denying the application; or*

1 “(ii) inform the applicant that addi-
 2 tional time is needed to review the applica-
 3 tion, including by providing notifications of
 4 the need for additional time at least once
 5 every 180 days until the waiver is granted
 6 or the application is denied.”; and

7 (2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
 8 following:

9 “(3) STATEMENT OF REASONS.—The Secretary
 10 shall state in an order issued under this subsection
 11 that is publicly posted on the website of the Pipeline
 12 and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration the
 13 reasons for granting or denying the waiver.”.

14 **TITLE III—STREAMLINING** 15 **OVERSIGHT OF PIPELINES**

16 **SEC. 301. REGULATORY UPDATES.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the PIPES Act of
 18 2020 (Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2220) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1)—

21 (i) by striking “a final” and inserting
 22 “A final”; and

23 (ii) by striking “that has not been pub-
 24 lished in the Federal Register;” and insert-
 25 ing a period;

1 (B) in paragraph (2)—

2 (i) by striking “a final” and inserting

3 “A final”; and

4 (ii) by striking “that has not been pub-
5 lished in the Federal Register; and” and in-
6 serting a period;

7 (C) in paragraph (3)—

8 (i) by striking “any other” and insert-
9 ing “Any other”; and

10 (ii) by striking “that has not been pub-
11 lished in the Federal Register”;

12 (D) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
13 through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C),
14 respectively, and indenting appropriately;

15 (E) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(D) A final rule required to be issued
17 under the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025.”; and

18 (F) in the matter preceding subparagraph
19 (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “In this sec-
20 tion, the term ‘outstanding mandate’ means—”
21 and inserting the following:

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term
23 ‘outstanding mandate’ means a final rule described in
24 paragraph (2) that—

1 “(A) is required to be issued by the Sec-
 2 retary (including any subordinate of the Sec-
 3 retary); and

4 “(B) has not been published in the Federal
 5 Register.

6 “(2) FINAL RULE DESCRIBED.—A final rule re-
 7 ferred to in paragraph (1) is any of the following.”;
 8 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “referred to
 9 in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a) is
 10 published in the Federal Register” and inserting “de-
 11 scribed in subsection (a)(2) is published in the Fed-
 12 eral Register with respect to the applicable out-
 13 standing mandate”; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(d) REQUIRED BRIEFING.—If the Secretary fails to
 16 update the website as required under subsection (b)(1), an
 17 appropriate employee of the Administration shall provide
 18 an in-person briefing to the relevant committees of Congress
 19 every 30 days until the requirements of that subsection are
 20 met.

21 “(e) OPTIONAL BRIEFING.—Annually, the Adminis-
 22 trator shall offer to provide a briefing, by the Administrator
 23 or a designee, to the relevant committees of Congress on the
 24 status of outstanding mandates.

1 “(f) *RESTRICTION OF FUNDS.*—If a requirement of
 2 subsection (b) is not met for over 90 days, no funds author-
 3 ized or appropriated may be used to support travel for the
 4 Administrator or the Deputy Administrator of the Admin-
 5 istration, unless necessary for the response to or investiga-
 6 tion of a pipeline or hazardous materials incident.”.

7 (b) *DEADLINE NONCOMPLIANCE.*—

8 (1) *BRIEFINGS.*—If the Secretary does not com-
 9 plete a requirement described in paragraph (2) by the
 10 deadline established by statute for the completion of
 11 that requirement, the Administrator shall brief the
 12 appropriate committees of Congress in person on the
 13 status of the requirement—

14 (A) not later than 7 days after the applica-
 15 ble deadline; and

16 (B) every 90 days thereafter until the Sec-
 17 retary completes the requirement.

18 (2) *REQUIREMENTS.*—A requirement referred to
 19 in paragraph (1) is any of the following:

20 (A) The rulemaking required under section
 21 60143(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, re-
 22 lating to idled pipelines.

23 (B) The issuance of a final rule with respect
 24 to the regulations required under section
 25 60102(q)(1) of title 49, United States Code, re-

1 *lating to gas pipeline leak detection and repair*
 2 *programs.*

3 **SEC. 302. STATE USE OF INTEGRATED INSPECTIONS.**

4 *Section 60105 of title 49, United States Code, is*
 5 *amended by adding at the end the following:*

6 “(g) *STATE USE OF INTEGRATED INSPECTIONS.*—

7 “(1) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this subsection:*

8 “(A) *APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-*
 9 *GRESS.*—*The term ‘appropriate committees of*
 10 *Congress’ has the meaning given the term in sec-*
 11 *tion 2 of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025.*

12 “(B) *INSPECTOR GENERAL.*—*The term ‘In-*
 13 *spector General’ means the Inspector General of*
 14 *the Department of Transportation.*

15 “(C) *RISK-BASED INTEGRATED INSPECTION*
 16 *PROGRAM.*—*The term ‘risk-based integrated in-*
 17 *spection program’ means an inspection program*
 18 *that uses risk information and data to focus in-*
 19 *spection resources on pipeline facilities and regu-*
 20 *latory requirements that have the highest pri-*
 21 *ority during an inspection.*

22 “(2) *AUTHORIZATION.*—*Subject to all other ap-*
 23 *plicable provisions of this section, with the written*
 24 *agreement of the Secretary and a State authority cer-*
 25 *tified under this section, which may be in the form*

1 of a memorandum of understanding, the Secretary
 2 may authorize, and the State authority may carry
 3 out, a risk-based integrated inspection program.

4 “(3) *PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE REQUIRE-*
 5 *MENTS.—A State authority that is authorized to*
 6 *carry out a risk-based integrated inspection pro-*
 7 *gram—*

8 “(A) *shall be subject to the same procedural*
 9 *and substantive requirements that would apply*
 10 *if the Secretary were carrying out the program;*
 11 *and*

12 “(B) *shall ensure—*

13 “(i) *that no pipeline system goes with-*
 14 *out inspection for more than 5 years; and*

15 “(ii) *that unsatisfactory conditions*
 16 *found in inspections are addressed in a*
 17 *timely manner.*

18 “(4) *APPLICATION AND CRITERIA.—Not later*
 19 *than 1 year after the date of enactment of this sub-*
 20 *section, the Secretary shall establish procedures and*
 21 *criteria for State authorities to apply to carry out a*
 22 *risk-based integrated inspection program pursuant to*
 23 *this subsection.*

24 “(5) *EVALUATION TIMELINE.—*

1 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year
 2 after receiving an application from a State au-
 3 thority to carry out a risk-based integrated in-
 4 spection program under this subsection, the Sec-
 5 retary shall—

6 “(i) review the application; and

7 “(ii) approve or deny the application.

8 “(B) *EXPLANATION OF DENIAL.*—If the Sec-
 9 retary denies an application submitted by a
 10 State authority under this subsection, the Sec-
 11 retary shall provide an explanation to the State
 12 authority of—

13 “(i) why the Secretary denied the ap-
 14 plication; and

15 “(ii) changes that the State authority
 16 could make to the application that would
 17 result in the Secretary approving the appli-
 18 cation.

19 “(6) *REVIEW OF PROGRAMS.*—

20 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall es-
 21 tablish a process to review the implementation of
 22 a risk-based integrated inspection program by a
 23 State authority.

24 “(B) *REVIEW BY INSPECTOR GENERAL.*—

1 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Inspector Gen-*
2 *eral shall—*

3 “(I) *review each risk-based inte-*
4 *grated inspection program authorized*
5 *by the Secretary under this subsection*
6 *not later than 3 years after the date on*
7 *which the relevant application is ap-*
8 *proved to determine whether the pro-*
9 *gram meets the needs of pipeline safe-*
10 *ty; and*

11 “(II) *submit to the Secretary and*
12 *the appropriate committees of Congress*
13 *a report on that review.*

14 “(ii) *REQUIREMENT.*—*If the Inspector*
15 *General determines that a risk-based inte-*
16 *grated inspection program is not adequate*
17 *and should be terminated, the Inspector*
18 *General shall notify the Secretary and the*
19 *appropriate committees of Congress.*

20 “(7) *TERMINATION.*—

21 “(A) *TERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.*—
22 *The Secretary may terminate an authorization*
23 *for a State authority to carry out a risk-based*
24 *integrated inspection program if—*

1 “(i) the Secretary determines that the
2 State authority is not adequately carrying
3 out the program;

4 “(ii) the Secretary provides to the
5 State authority—

6 “(I) a notification of the intent of
7 the Secretary to terminate the author-
8 ization for the State authority to carry
9 out a risk-based integrated inspection
10 program;

11 “(II) a period of not less than 120
12 days to take such corrective action as
13 the Secretary determines to be nec-
14 essary to comply with the requirements
15 of this section; and

16 “(III) on request of the State au-
17 thority, a detailed description of the
18 aspects of the program that are inad-
19 equate; and

20 “(iii) the State authority, after the no-
21 tification described in clause (ii)(I), fails to
22 take satisfactory corrective action in accord-
23 ance with clause (ii)(II) before the expira-
24 tion of the period provided under that
25 clause.

1 “(B) *TERMINATION BY A STATE AUTHOR-*
 2 *ITY.—A State authority may terminate its au-*
 3 *thority to carry out a risk-based integrated in-*
 4 *spection program at any time by providing to*
 5 *the Secretary a notice not later than 90 days be-*
 6 *fore the date of termination.”.*

7 **SEC. 303. OPTIMIZING PIPELINE SAFETY INSPECTIONS.**

8 (a) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

9 (1) *OFFICE.—The term “office” means a re-*
 10 *gional office, district office, and any other office of the*
 11 *Administration serving a particular region.*

12 (2) *REGION.—The term “region” means a region*
 13 *for which a regional office of the Administration has*
 14 *been established.*

15 (3) *STATE PARTNERS.—The term “State part-*
 16 *ners” means the State authorities described in sub-*
 17 *paragraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (b)(1).*

18 (b) *STUDY.—*

19 (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of*
 20 *the United States shall conduct a study to evaluate*
 21 *enforcement actions and the inspection scheduling*
 22 *and coordination practices and procedures used by—*

23 (A) *the Administration;*

24 (B) *State authorities certified under section*
 25 *60105 of title 49, United States Code; and*

1 (C) *State authorities with which the Sec-*
2 *retary has made an agreement under section*
3 *60106(a) of that title.*

4 (2) *REQUIREMENTS.—The study under para-*
5 *graph (1) shall—*

6 (A) *identify ways in which the Administra-*
7 *tion and States may coordinate with each other*
8 *for more effective inspections and enforcement;*

9 (B) *evaluate the extent of any—*

10 (i) *substantive overlap of inspections*
11 *carried out by the Administration and the*
12 *State partners, such that the Administra-*
13 *tion and the State partners are inspecting*
14 *the same operator programs and procedures*
15 *multiple times in the same annual or bien-*
16 *nial period;*

17 (ii) *substantive overlap of inspections*
18 *carried out by offices in different regions,*
19 *such that offices in multiple regions are in-*
20 *specting the same operator programs and*
21 *procedures multiple times in the same an-*
22 *nual or biennial period;*

23 (iii) *coordination among offices in dif-*
24 *ferent regions on inspection findings relat-*
25 *ing to an operator before the Administra-*

tion decides to take any enforcement or other action against that operator;

(iv) coordination among offices in different regions and between the Administration and State partners on the scheduling and scoping of inspections of operators to 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;

1 (III) to optimize inspection sched-
2 uling and coordination; and

3 (IV) to improve compliance with
4 Federal pipeline safety laws; and

5 (C) review the Federal enforcement process
6 for its ability to fairly ensure compliance with
7 Federal pipeline safety laws.

8 (c) *REPORT*.—Not later than 1 year after the date of
9 enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
10 States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
11 gress a report that describes the results of the study con-
12 ducted under subsection (b), which shall include rec-
13 ommendations that the Administrator could adopt to better
14 coordinate inspection practices and procedures with State
15 partners, and between State partners, to address defi-
16 ciencies identified under subsection (b)(2)—

17 (1) without compromising pipeline safety; and

18 (2) while improving the enforcement process.

19 (d) *SUMMARY OF PIPELINE INSPECTIONS*.—Not later
20 than June 1 of each year beginning after the date of enact-
21 ment of this Act, the Administrator shall make available
22 to the public in an electronically accessible format a sum-
23 mary of Federal and State pipeline inspections conducted
24 under direct or delegated authority under title 49, United

1 *States Code, during the previous calendar year, includ-*
 2 *ing—*

3 (1) *the date of the inspection;*

4 (2) *the name of the pipeline owner or operator;*

5 (3) *the pipeline system or segment inspected;*

6 (4) *the 1 or more regions of the Administration*
 7 *in which the inspected system or segment operates;*

8 (5) *the 1 or more States in which the inspected*
 9 *system or segment operates;*

10 (6) *any violations or proposed violations alleged*
 11 *as a result of the inspection; and*

12 (7) *any enforcement actions taken.*

13 **SEC. 304. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PHMSA ENGAGEMENT**
 14 **PRIOR TO RULEMAKING ACTIVITIES.**

15 *It is the sense of Congress that, if the Secretary deter-*
 16 *mines it to be appropriate, the Secretary should engage*
 17 *with a broad range of pipeline stakeholder groups, includ-*
 18 *ing State pipeline safety programs with an approved cer-*
 19 *tification under section 60105 of title 49, United States*
 20 *Code, during predrafting stages of rulemaking activities—*

21 (1) *to inform the work of the Secretary in car-*
 22 *rying out the goals of chapter 601 of title 49, United*
 23 *States Code; and*

24 (2) *to reduce the timeline for issuance of pro-*
 25 *posed and final rules.*

1 **TITLE IV—IMPROVING SAFETY**
2 **OF EMERGING GASES**

3 **SEC. 401. STUDIES OF HYDROGEN PIPELINE TRANSPOR-**
4 **TATION.**

5 (a) *STUDY.*—

6 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall enter into*
7 *an agreement with a National Laboratory (as defined*
8 *in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42*
9 *U.S.C. 15801))—*

10 (A) *to conduct a study of the safety, tech-*
11 *nical, and practical considerations relating to*
12 *the blending of hydrogen into existing natural*
13 *gas systems;*

14 (B) *to issue a report on the results of that*
15 *study, in accordance with paragraph (2); and*

16 (C) *to make recommendations to the Sec-*
17 *retary for how to avoid or minimize any risks*
18 *identified under paragraph (2)(C).*

19 (2) *CONSIDERATIONS.*—*In conducting the study*
20 *under paragraph (1), the following factors shall be*
21 *taken into consideration:*

22 (A) *Systems that utilize a hydrogen content*
23 *above 5 percent to determine if there are addi-*
24 *tional restrictions or requirements for the proc-*
25 *esses, materials, and standards that the operators*

1 *of those systems have implemented to operate*
2 *those systems safely.*

3 *(B) Remaining knowledge gaps, if any, re-*
4 *lating to safely moving hydrogen-methane blends*
5 *through existing natural gas distribution sys-*
6 *tems.*

7 *(C) Safety risks, if any, of hydrogen-meth-*
8 *ane blends composed of over 5 percent hydrogen*
9 *in existing natural gas distribution systems, in-*
10 *cluding—*

11 *(i) leak rates of hydrogen-methane*
12 *blends;*

13 *(ii) the performance of hydrogen-meth-*
14 *ane blends in existing residential, commer-*
15 *cial, and industrial infrastructure; and*

16 *(iii) underground migration of leaked*
17 *hydrogen-methane blends.*

18 *(D) Any relevant findings or recommenda-*
19 *tions of—*

20 *(i) the HyBlend research and develop-*
21 *ment initiative commenced by the Depart-*
22 *ment of Energy in 2021 for the purpose of*
23 *addressing opportunities for hydrogen*
24 *blending in natural gas pipelines; and*

1 (ii) the study on hydrogen blending
 2 commissioned by the California Public Util-
 3 ities Commission and carried out by the
 4 University of California, Riverside, entitled
 5 “Hydrogen Blending Impacts Study”.

6 (3) *REPORT.*—The Secretary shall submit to the
 7 appropriate committees of Congress the report pre-
 8 pared under paragraph (1)(B).

9 (b) *GAO REPORT.*—

10 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year after
 11 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
 12 General of the United States shall conduct a study on
 13 existing natural gas distribution systems that utilize
 14 hydrogen-natural gas blending applications, or utilize
 15 gas with a higher hydrogen content, to identify proc-
 16 esses, materials, and standards that operators have
 17 implemented to operate those systems safely.

18 (2) *REQUIREMENT.*—The study conducted under
 19 paragraph (1) shall include an examination of nat-
 20 ural gas distribution systems currently operating
 21 in—

- 22 (A) the United States;
- 23 (B) Canada;
- 24 (C) Europe;
- 25 (D) Australia;

1 (E) *Hong Kong; and*

2 (F) *any other appropriate location, as de-*
3 *termined by the Comptroller General of the*
4 *United States.*

5 (3) *CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study*
6 *under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the*
7 *United States shall consider systems that utilize a hy-*
8 *drogen content above 5 percent to determine if there*
9 *are additional restrictions or requirements for the*
10 *processes, materials, and standards that the operators*
11 *of those systems have implemented to operate those*
12 *systems safely.*

13 (c) *REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS.—*

14 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after*
15 *completion of the studies under subsections (a) and*
16 *(b), the Secretary shall determine whether any up-*
17 *dates to regulations are necessary to ensure the safety*
18 *of natural gas distribution systems intentionally*
19 *blending hydrogen at levels exceeding 5 percent.*

20 (2) *REQUIREMENT.—If the Secretary determines*
21 *that updates to regulations are not necessary, the Sec-*
22 *retary shall submit to the appropriate committees of*
23 *Congress a report that describes the reasons for that*
24 *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 carbon
7 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 op-
19 erators 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.*—Vapor
4 *dispersion modeling under subparagraph (A)(ii)*
5 *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; and*

16 (ii) *safety-related condition reporting*
17 *and leak reporting appropriate to any*
18 *unique safety risks associated with carbon*
19 *dioxide.*

20 (b) *EFFECT.*—Completion of the rulemaking required
21 *under subsection (a) shall satisfy the rulemaking require-*
22 *ment under section 60102(i)(2) of title 49, United States*
23 *Code.*

24 (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 U.S.C.*
4 *15801)) to study the feasibility of adding odorant to*
5 *carbon dioxide pipelines.*

6 (2) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 2 years after the*
7 *date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-*
8 *mit to the appropriate committees of Congress a re-*
9 *port 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 respond-*
13 *ers information that is tailored specifically to carbon diox-*
14 *ide pipeline releases, including information on the potential*
15 *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 1
6 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector
7 General of the Department of Transportation shall review—

8 (1) *the findings of the study required under sec-*
9 *tion 16 of the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty,*
10 *and Job Creation Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–90;*
11 *125 Stat. 1915); and*

12 (2) *the oil spill response plans required under*
13 *part 194 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or*
14 *successor regulations), for operators transporting di-*
15 *luted bitumen oil.*

16 (b) *PURPOSE.*—The review under subsection (a) shall
17 determine the extent to which the response plans required
18 under part 194 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or
19 successor regulations)—

20 (1) *identify, using industry-standard names, all*
21 *of the crude oils transported by the operator, includ-*
22 *ing diluted bitumen;*

23 (2) *include safety data sheets for each of the*
24 *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 the
3 water bodies potentially at risk;

4 (4) describe the response activities planned and
5 resources available to mitigate the impacts of spills of
6 diluted bitumen, if applicable, including the capabili-
7 ties of the operator for detection, containment, and re-
8 covery of submerged and sunken oil;

9 (5) specify the procedures by which the operator
10 shall provide to the applicable On-Scene Coordinator
11 (as defined in section 194.5 of title 49, Code of Fed-
12 eral Regulations (or successor regulations)) or an
13 equivalent State official relevant response informa-
14 tion; and

15 (6) include all spill-relevant properties and con-
16 siderations with respect to each crude oil transported
17 by the operator and identified in the response plan in
18 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 described
 5 in that subsection, and subject to the availability of funds
 6 appropriated by Congress for the applicable purpose, the
 7 Secretary, in consultation with hazardous liquid pipeline
 8 sector stakeholders, may establish a center, to be known as
 9 the “National Center of Excellence for Hazardous Liquid
 10 Pipeline Leak Detection” (referred to in this section as the
 11 “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 mixed-*
 16 *use pipeline that transports crude oil and natural gas*
 17 *liquids where the pipeline crosses through the Great*
 18 *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 Secretary
 26 shall submit to the Committees on Commerce, Science,

1 *and Transportation and Appropriations of the Senate*
 2 *and the Committees on Transportation and Infra-*
 3 *structure, Energy and Commerce, and Appropriations*
 4 *of the House of Representatives a report that de-*
 5 *scribes—*

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 tech-*
 21 *nologies reviewed under paragraph (1) into pipeline*
 22 *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 liq-*
 3 *uid 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 on*
 13 *which the Center of Excellence is established under sub-*
 14 *section (a), the Center of Excellence shall submit to the ap-*
 15 *propriate committees of Congress a report on the findings*
 16 *of the Center of Excellence with respect to leak detection*
 17 *technologies that can detect leaks at very low volumes.*

18 **SEC. 503. OPERATOR FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.**

19 *Not later than 7 calendar days after the date on which*
 20 *an operator of a pipeline facility (as defined in section*
 21 *60101(a) of title 49, United States Code) files a petition*
 22 *for relief under chapter 7 or 11 of title 11, United States*
 23 *Code, the operator shall notify the Secretary of that filing.*

1 **SEC. 504. DATA AND TRANSPARENCY.**

2 *Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of*
 3 *this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter,*
 4 *the Secretary shall publish, on a publicly accessible website,*
 5 *summary data pertaining to pipeline leaks required to be*
 6 *reported by operators in the annual reports submitted to*
 7 *the Administration by the operators.*

8 **SEC. 505. OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.**

9 *Section 108 of title 49, United States Code, is amend-*
 10 *ed—*

11 *(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “(referred to*
 12 *in this section as the ‘Administration’)” after “Safety*
 13 *Administration”;*

14 *(2) in subsection (c), in the first sentence, by in-*
 15 *serting “(referred to in this section as the ‘Adminis-*
 16 *trator’),” 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 sec-*
 23 *tion 2 of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025.*

24 *“(B) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’*
 25 *means the Director of the Office.*

1 “(C) *OFFICE.*—*The term ‘Office’ means the*
 2 *Office of Public Engagement of the Administra-*
 3 *tion established under paragraph (2).*

4 “(2) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*Not later than 1 year*
 5 *after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Ad-*
 6 *ministrator shall establish within the Administration*
 7 *an office, to be known as the ‘Office of Public Engage-*
 8 *ment’.*

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 the*
 14 *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 shall*
 24 *appoint agency community liaison personnel em-*

1 *ployed as of the date on which the Office is established*
 2 *as employees of the Office.*

3 “(6) *DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE.*—

4 “(A) *COORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE.*—*The*
 5 *Director shall coordinate the provision of tech-*
 6 *nical assistance and educational assistance to the*
 7 *public with respect to the authorities exercised by*
 8 *the Administration.*

9 “(B) *PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.*—*The Director*
 10 *shall coordinate active and ongoing engagement*
 11 *with the public with respect to the authority and*
 12 *activities of the Administration, including by—*

13 “(i) *conducting—*

14 “(I) *outreach, which may include*
 15 *public postings, signage at relevant*
 16 *physical locations, newspaper publica-*
 17 *tions, mailings, phone calls, can-*
 18 *vassing, and door hangers, to commu-*
 19 *nities using varied media; and*

20 “(II) *when appropriate, meetings;*

21 “(ii) *assisting individuals in resolving*
 22 *pipeline safety inquiries;*

23 “(iii) *making publicly available, and*
 24 *disseminating, information on the manner*

1 *in which members of the public may file in-*
 2 *quiries relating to pipeline safety;*

3 “(iv) *assisting individuals in con-*
 4 *tacting, as necessary, the Federal Energy*
 5 *Regulatory Commission, State agencies, and*
 6 *other agencies, in order to appropriately di-*
 7 *rect public inquiries that are not within the*
 8 *jurisdiction of the Administration to the*
 9 *relevant agency; and*

10 “(v) *preparing, and making publicly*
 11 *available in accessible formats, educational*
 12 *materials about the Administration, the re-*
 13 *sponsibilities of the Administration, and*
 14 *how those responsibilities interact with enti-*
 15 *ties under the jurisdiction of the Adminis-*
 16 *tration and other Federal, State, local, or*
 17 *Tribal government agencies.”.*

18 **SEC. 506. CLARIFICATION OF CONFIRMED DISCOVERY.**

19 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 2 years after the
 20 *date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—*

21 (1) *review—*

22 (A) *the definition of confirmed discovery*
 23 *used by the Administration for purposes of the*
 24 *reporting of accidents and incidents to the Na-*
 25 *tional Response Center and the Secretary (in-*

1 *cluding any regulations promulgated under sec-*
2 *tion 9 of the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Cer-*
3 *tainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 (49 U.S.C.*
4 *60117 note; Public Law 112–90)), establishing*
5 *communication with first responders and other*
6 *relevant public officials, providing immediate*
7 *notice to the National Response Center as de-*
8 *scribed in section 191.5 and 195.52 of title 49,*
9 *Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor*
10 *regulations), and any other relevant purposes;*
11 *and*

12 *(B) for each initial notice of an accident or*
13 *incident submitted to the National Response*
14 *Center telephonically or electronically under sec-*
15 *tion 191.5 or 195.52 of title 49, Code of Federal*
16 *Regulations, during the 5-year period ending on*
17 *the date of enactment of this Act—*

18 *(i) the time between the first signs of*
19 *an accident or incident and the time at*
20 *which operators determined that the acci-*
21 *dent or incident met the definition of con-*
22 *firmed discovery;*

23 *(ii) the methods that operators used to*
24 *confirm that an accident or incident met*
25 *that definition; and*

1 (iii) the time that it took for operators
 2 to report an accident or incident after con-
 3 firming that the accident or incident met
 4 that definition; and

5 (2) submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
 6 gress a report that provides the findings of the review
 7 under paragraph (1), including the details described
 8 in subparagraph (B) of that paragraph for each acci-
 9 dent or incident.

10 (b) CIVIL PENALTY CONSIDERATIONS.—Section
 11 60122(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

12 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at
 13 the end;

14 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at
 15 the end; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(E) the timeliness of emergency response
 18 notification, including by reducing penalties for
 19 cases in which incidents are reported within 10
 20 minutes of a suspected release; and

21 “(F) advanced coordination with State,
 22 local, Tribal, and territorial governmental enti-
 23 ties resulting in the relevant and timely use of
 24 existing public alert notification systems; and”.

1 **SEC. 507. PUBLIC ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR PIPE-**
2 **LINE FACILITIES.**

3 (a) *PUBLIC ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.*—*The Sec-*
4 *retary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Fed-*
5 *eral Emergency Management Agency, shall develop vol-*
6 *untary guidance to assist owners and operators of pipeline*
7 *facilities with coordinating with State, local, Tribal, and*
8 *territorial governmental entities to make use of existing*
9 *public alert notification systems, such as the Integrated*
10 *Public Alert and Warning System of the Federal Emer-*
11 *gency Management Agency described in section 526 of the*
12 *Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321o) to issue*
13 *emergency alerts and appropriate guidance via mobile*
14 *phones, radio, or television in a locally targeted area in*
15 *the event of a pipeline emergency..*

16 (b) *EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS.*—*Any procedures*
17 *established by an operator under subsection (a) shall be in-*
18 *corporated into the response plans maintained by the oper-*
19 *ator under sections 60102(d)(5) and 60138 of title 49,*
20 *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 following:

8 ***“§44815. Prohibition on PHMSA operation, procure-***
9 ***ment, or contracting action with respect***
10 ***to covered unmanned aircraft systems***

11 “(a) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

12 “(1) *ADMINISTRATION.*—The term ‘Administra-

13 *tion’ means the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials*
14 *Safety Administration.*

15 “(2) *ADMINISTRATOR.*—The term ‘Adminis-

16 *trator’ means the Administrator of the Administra-*
17 *tion.*

18 “(3) *COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.*—The term

19 ‘covered foreign country’ means any of the following:

20 “(A) *The People’s Republic of China.*

21 “(B) *The Russian Federation.*

22 “(C) *The Islamic Republic of Iran.*

23 “(D) *The Democratic People’s Republic of*
24 *Korea.*

25 “(E) *The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.*

1 “(F) *The Republic of Cuba.*

2 “(4) *COVERED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—*

3 *The term ‘covered unmanned aircraft system’ means*
 4 *an unmanned aircraft system that is, or is owned by*
 5 *an entity that is—*

6 “(A) *included on the Consolidated Screen-*
 7 *ing List or Entity List as designated by the Sec-*
 8 *retary of Commerce;*

9 “(B) *domiciled in a covered foreign country;*
 10 *or*

11 “(C) *subject to influence or control by the*
 12 *government of a covered foreign country.*

13 “(b) *RESTRICTIONS.—Subject to subsection (c), the Ad-*
 14 *ministrator shall not—*

15 “(1) *operate a covered unmanned aircraft sys-*
 16 *tem; or*

17 “(2) *enter into, extend, or renew a contract—*

18 “(A) *for the procurement of a covered un-*
 19 *manned aircraft system; or*

20 “(B) *with an entity that operates (as deter-*
 21 *mined by the Secretary of Transportation) a cov-*
 22 *ered unmanned aircraft system in the perform-*
 23 *ance of any Administration contract.*

24 “(c) *EXEMPTION.—The restrictions under subsection*
 25 *(b) shall not apply if the operation, procurement, or con-*

1 *tracting action is for the purpose of intelligence, electronic*
 2 *warfare, and information warfare operations, testing, anal-*
 3 *ysis, and training.*

4 “(d) *WAIVER.—The Administrator may waive the re-*
 5 *strictions under subsection (b) on a case by case basis by*
 6 *certifying, in writing, to the Secretary of Homeland Secu-*
 7 *rity and the appropriate committees of Congress that the*
 8 *operation, procurement, or contracting action is required*
 9 *in the public interest of the United States.*

10 “(e) *REPLACEMENT OF COVERED UNMANNED AIR-*
 11 *CRAFT SYSTEMS.—Subject to available appropriations, not*
 12 *later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section,*
 13 *the Administrator shall replace any covered unmanned air-*
 14 *craft system that is owned or operated by the Administra-*
 15 *tion as of that date of enactment with an unmanned air-*
 16 *craft system manufactured in the United States or an allied*
 17 *country (as defined in section 2350f(d) of title 10).*

18 “(f) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days*
 19 *after the date of enactment of this section, the Adminis-*
 20 *trator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-*
 21 *gress a report that includes—*

22 “(1) *a description of the changes the Administra-*
 23 *tion has made to its operation, procurement, and con-*
 24 *tracting processes to ensure that the Administration*

1 *does not acquire any covered unmanned aircraft sys-*
 2 *tem;*

3 *“(2) the number of covered unmanned aircraft*
 4 *systems that needed to be replaced in accordance with*
 5 *subsection (e), including—*

6 *“(A) an explanation of the purposes for*
 7 *which such covered unmanned aircraft systems*
 8 *were used;*

9 *“(B) a description of the unmanned aircraft*
 10 *systems that the Administrator will purchase to*
 11 *replace such covered unmanned aircraft systems;*
 12 *and*

13 *“(C) the cost to purchase the unmanned air-*
 14 *craft systems described in subparagraph (B);*
 15 *and*

16 *“(3) any other information determined appro-*
 17 *priate by the Administrator.”.*

18 *(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter*
 19 *448 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting*
 20 *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 receive*
9 *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 grant*
14 *under this section shall submit to the Secretary an applica-*
15 *tion at such time, in such manner, and containing such*
16 *information as the Secretary may require, including a de-*
17 *scription of the projects or activities proposed to be funded*
18 *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 take*
 3 *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 than*
 19 *2 percent of the amounts appropriated under sub-*
 20 *section (h)(1) for a fiscal year may be used by the*
 21 *Secretary for the administrative costs of carrying out*
 22 *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, based*
8 *on the most recent decennial census, the Sec-*
9 *retary may increase the grant share of the cost*
10 *of the project under subparagraph (A) to not*
11 *more than 80 percent.*

12 *(g) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 3*
13 *days before the date on which the Secretary publishes the*
14 *selection of projects and activities for which a grant will*
15 *be provided under this section, the Secretary shall submit*
16 *to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-*
17 *tation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation*
18 *and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a writ-*
19 *ten notice that includes—*

20 *(1) a list of all applications reviewed by the Sec-*
21 *retary 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 available*
 5 *until expended.*

6 (2) *REQUIREMENT.*—*Any amounts used to carry*
 7 *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 60101*
 15 *of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at*
 16 *the end the following:*

17 “(c) *INDIAN AND TRIBAL DEFINITIONS.*—*In this chap-*
 18 *ter:*

19 “(1) *INDIAN LAND.*—*The term ‘Indian land’ has*
 20 *the meaning given the term ‘Indian lands’ in section*
 21 *4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C.*
 22 *2703).*

23 “(2) *INDIAN TRIBE.*—*The term ‘Indian Tribe’*
 24 *has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the In-*

1 *dian 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 “located,”*
 6 *and inserting “located and any affected Indian*
 7 *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 an*
 14 *appropriate Tribal official (as determined by the*
 15 *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 Indian
 9 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 amended,
 23 in the first sentence, by inserting “and Tribal officials from
 24 any affected Indian Tribe” after “to the Secretary”.

1 (d) *HIGH-DENSITY POPULATION AREAS AND ENVIRON-*
 2 *MENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS.*—Section 60109(e)(7) of title
 3 49, *United States Code*, is amended by striking subpara-
 4 *graph (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 system*
 10 *shall make available to the Secretary or the*
 11 *relevant State authority with a certification*
 12 *in effect under section 60105, as applicable,*
 13 *and to any affected Indian Tribe, a copy of*
 14 *the emergency response plan under section*
 15 *60102(d)(5).*

16 “(ii) *OTHER DOCUMENTS.*—*Not later*
 17 *than 2 years after the date of enactment of*
 18 *the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025, each op-*
 19 *erator of a distribution system shall make*
 20 *available to the Secretary or the relevant*
 21 *State authority with a certification in effect*
 22 *under section 60105, as applicable, a copy*
 23 *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 or
7 manual described in clause (i) or (ii), the
8 operator of the applicable distribution sys-
9 tem 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 section*
 5 *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 “and
 9 a Tribal official from any affected Indian Tribe” after “af-
 10 fected local officials”.

11 (f) *TECHNICAL SAFETY STANDARDS COMMITTEES*.—
 12 Section 60115(b)(3)(A) of title 49, United States Code, is
 13 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 enact-
 21 ment of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025”; and

22 (2) in the second sentence, by inserting “affected
 23 Indian Tribes,” after “advise”.

24 (h) *ADMINISTRATIVE*.—Section 60117 of title 49,
 25 United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting “and an
2 appropriate Tribal official from any affected Indian
3 Tribe” after “is located”;

4 (2) in subsection (i)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “Indian
6 Tribes,” after “States,”; and

7 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “Indian
8 Tribes,” after “local governments,”;

9 (3) in subsection (l), in the first sentence, by in-
10 serting “Indian Tribes,” after “local government,”;

11 (4) in subsection (n)(1), by inserting “Indian
12 Tribes,” after “the States,”; and

13 (5) in subsection (p)(2)(B), by inserting “Indian
14 Tribes,” after “State agencies,”.

15 (i) *JUDICIAL REVIEW*.—Section 60119(a)(1) of title
16 49, United States Code, is amended, in the first sentence,
17 by inserting “, including an Indian Tribe,” before “ad-
18 versely affected”.

19 (j) *EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS*.—Section
20 60125(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended, in
21 the first sentence, by inserting “, and affected Indian
22 Tribes,” after “local governments”.

23 (k) *NATIONAL PIPELINE MAPPING SYSTEM*.—Section
24 60132 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (c), by striking “State and
 2 local” and inserting “State, local, and Tribal”; and
 3 (2) in subsection (e), in the first sentence, by
 4 striking “State and local” and inserting “State, local,
 5 and Tribal”.

6 (l) *COORDINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.*—
 7 Section 60133 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—
 8 (1) in subsection (a)(5), by striking “and local”
 9 and inserting “, local, and Tribal”; and
 10 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting “Tribal,”
 11 after “State,”.

12 **SEC. 604. IDENTIFICATION OF AND JUSTIFICATION FOR**
 13 **REDACTIONS.**

14 *If the Administration redacts any portion of a docu-*
 15 *ment produced to another person, the Administration shall*
 16 *cite a specific statute authorizing the withholding of the in-*
 17 *formation redacted.*

18 **SEC. 605. FEES FOR LOAN GUARANTEES.**

19 Section 116(d) of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act
 20 (15 U.S.C. 720n(d)) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1)—
 22 (A) by striking “(1) The Secretary” and in-
 23 serting the following:
 24 “(1) *LOAN TERMS.*—
 25 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary”; and

1 *(B) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated),*
 2 *in the second sentence, by striking “The term”*
 3 *and inserting the following:*

4 *“(B) DURATION.—The term”; and*
 5 *(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “(2) An eligi-*
 6 *ble” and inserting the following:*

7 *“(2) FEES.—*

8 *“(A) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—*

9 *“(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding*
 10 *any other provision of law, the Secretary*
 11 *shall charge, and collect on or after the date*
 12 *of the financial close of an obligation, a fee*
 13 *for a guarantee in an amount that the Sec-*
 14 *retary determines is sufficient to cover ap-*
 15 *plicable administrative expenses (including*
 16 *any costs associated with third-party con-*
 17 *sultants engaged by the Secretary).*

18 *“(ii) AVAILABILITY.—Fees collected*
 19 *under this paragraph shall—*

20 *“(I) be deposited by the Secretary*
 21 *into the Treasury; and*

22 *“(II) remain available to the Sec-*
 23 *retary, without further appropriation,*
 24 *until expended to cover applicable ad-*

1 *ministrative expenses described in*
 2 *clause (i).*

3 “(iii) *REDUCTION IN FEE AMOUNT.*—
 4 *Notwithstanding clause (i), and subject to*
 5 *the availability of appropriations, the Sec-*
 6 *retary may reduce the amount of a fee for*
 7 *a guarantee under this subparagraph.*

8 “(B) *DEBT OBLIGATIONS.*—*An eligible”.*

9 **SEC. 606. IMPROVING PIPELINE CYBERSECURITY.**

10 *Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment*
 11 *of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall pub-*
 12 *lish in the Federal Register a final rule pursuant to the*
 13 *rulemaking proceeding entitled “Enhancing Surface Cyber*
 14 *Risk Management” (Docket Number TSA–2022–0001; Reg-*
 15 *ulation Identifier Number 1652–AA74) relating to the cy-*
 16 *bersecurity of pipelines.*

17 **SEC. 607. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

18 (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—*Section 60101(a) of title 49,*
 19 *United States Code (as amended by section 212(b)), is*
 20 *amended—*

21 (1) *in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by*
 22 *striking “chapter—” and inserting “chapter:”;*

23 (2) *in each of paragraphs (1) through (16), (18),*
 24 *(19), (20), (22) (23), (25), and (27), by striking the*

1 *semicolon at the end of the paragraph and inserting*
 2 *a period;*

3 *(3) in paragraph (1)—*

4 *(A) by striking the paragraph designation*
 5 *and all that follows through “(A) means” in sub-*
 6 *paragraph (A) and inserting the following:*

7 *“(1) EXISTING LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS FACIL-*
 8 *ITY.—*

9 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘existing liq-*
 10 *uefied natural gas facility’ means”;*

11 *(B) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “;*
 12 *but” and inserting a period; and*

13 *(C) in subparagraph (B)—*

14 *(i) by striking “(B) does not” and in-*
 15 *serting the following:*

16 *“(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘existing liq-*
 17 *uefied natural gas facility’ does not”; and*

18 *(ii) by inserting “described in sub-*
 19 *paragraph (A)” after “approval”;*

20 *(4) in paragraph (14)—*

21 *(A) by striking the paragraph designation*
 22 *and all that follows through “(A) means” in sub-*
 23 *paragraph (A) and inserting the following:*

24 *“(14) LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FACIL-*
 25 *ITY.—*

1 “(A) *IN GENERAL*.—The term ‘liquefied nat-
2 ural gas pipeline facility’ means”;

3 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;
4 but” and inserting a period; and

5 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “(B)
6 does not” and inserting the following:

7 “(B) *EXCLUSIONS*.—The term ‘liquefied
8 natural gas pipeline facility’ does not”;

9 (5) in paragraph (24) (relating to the term “Sec-
10 retary”), by striking “; and” and inserting a period;

11 (6) in paragraph (27)—

12 (A) by striking the paragraph designation
13 and all that follows through “(A) means” in sub-
14 paragraph (A) and inserting the following:

15 “(27) *TRANSPORTING HAZARDOUS LIQUID*.—

16 “(A) *IN GENERAL*.—The term ‘transporting
17 hazardous liquid’ means”;

18 (B) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “;
19 but” and inserting a period; and

20 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “(B)
21 does not” and inserting the following:

22 “(B) *EXCLUSIONS*.—The term ‘transporting
23 hazardous liquid’ does not”; and

24 (7) in each of paragraphs (2) through (13), (15),
25 (16), (18), (19), (20), (22) through (25), and (28)—

1 (A) by inserting “The term” after the para-
2 graph designation; and

3 (B) by inserting a paragraph heading, the
4 text of which comprises the term defined in the
5 paragraph.

6 (b) *REPORT*.—Section 60102(b) of title 49, United
7 States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (7).

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119TH CONGRESS
2D Session

S. 2975

[Report No. 119-102]

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance the safety of pipeline transportation, and for other purposes.

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

Reported with an amendment