

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—119th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 2975

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

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended
to be proposed by Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. CANT-
WELL, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. PETERS)

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing:

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.

2

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 **TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATIONS**

12 **SEC. 101. GAS AND HAZARDOUS LIQUID.**

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

15 (1) in paragraph (1)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

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

21 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking
22 “\$63,000,000” and inserting
23 “\$83,250,000”;

24 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

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

5 (ii) in clause (ii)—

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

8 (II) by striking “and” at the end;
9 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

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

14 (ii) in clause (ii)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 (2) in paragraph (2)—

12 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

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

17 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking
18 “\$11,000,000” and inserting
19 “\$13,500,000”;

20 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

21 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
22 by striking “\$27,650,000 for fiscal year
23 2022” and inserting “\$31,000,000 for fis-
24 cal year 2027”; and

25 (ii) in clause (ii)—

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

3 (II) by striking “and” at the end;
4 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

5 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
6 by striking “\$28,700,000 for fiscal year
7 2023” and inserting “\$32,000,000 for fis-
8 cal year 2028”; and

9 (ii) in clause (ii)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 “(E) 34,000,000 for fiscal year 2030, 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) \$15,300,000 shall be used for
6 making grants.”; and

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

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

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

- 17 (1) \$33,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
18 (2) \$34,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
19 (3) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;
20 (4) \$36,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and
21 (5) \$37,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.

22 **SEC. 103. OTHER PROGRAMS.**

23 (a) EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS.—Section
24 60125(b)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended
25 by striking “\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021

1 through 2023 to carry out this subsection” and inserting
2 “to carry out this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fis-
3 cal years 2026 through 2030”.

4 (b) PIPELINE SAFETY INFORMATION GRANTS TO
5 COMMUNITIES.—Section 60130 of title 49, United States
6 Code, is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (c)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “section
9 2(b) of the PIPES Act of 2016 (Public Law
10 114–183; 130 Stat. 515), the Secretary shall
11 use \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
12 through 2023 to carry out this section.” and in-
13 serting the following: “section 60125(a)(1), the
14 Secretary shall use to carry out this section—

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

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

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

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

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

20 and

21 (B) in paragraph (2)—

22 (i) by striking “\$1,000,000”; and

23 (ii) by striking “section.” and insert-
24 ing the following: “section—

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

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

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

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

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

5 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
6 section (e); and

7 (3) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(d) DEADLINES.—

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

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

18 “(A) in such form and containing such in-
19 formation as the Secretary considers to be ap-
20 propriate; and

21 “(B) by such date as the Secretary may
22 establish, subject to the condition that the date
23 shall be not later than 60 days after the date
24 on which the Secretary publishes the notice of
25 funding opportunity under paragraph (1).

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

7 (c) DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—Section
8 60134(i) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by
9 striking “\$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through
10 2023. Such funds shall remain” and inserting
11 “\$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030,
12 to remain”.

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

16 (1) by striking “\$3,000,000” and inserting
17 “\$2,500,000”; and

18 (2) by striking “the fiscal years 2021 through
19 2023” and inserting “fiscal years 2026 through
20 2030”.

21 **TITLE II—MODERNIZING** 22 **PIPELINE SAFETY**

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

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
25 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise

1 part 195 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, to allow
2 for risk-based inspections of in-service breakout tanks if
3 the Secretary finds such revisions maintain or enhance
4 safety.

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

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

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

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

22 (d) NOTIFICATION.—If the regulations promulgated
23 under subsection (a) differ from the American Petroleum
24 Institute standard referred to in subsection (b), the Sec-
25 retary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-

1 gress a notification explaining the reasons for the dif-
2 ferences not later than 60 days after the date on which
3 the regulations are published in the Federal Register.

4 **SEC. 202. RISK ASSESSMENT OBLIGATIONS.**

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

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

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

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

11 “(iii) require that an officer or em-
12 ployee of the Department of Transpor-
13 tation with expertise in conducting risk as-
14 sessments or cost-benefit analyses for pipe-
15 line facilities or other modes of transpor-
16 tation attend any meeting in which a com-
17 mittee described in clause (i) is serving as
18 a peer review panel with respect to that
19 risk assessment information.”.

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

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

24 “(l) UPDATING STANDARDS.—

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

3 “(A) review each industry consensus stand-
4 ard—

5 “(i) that has been adopted or incor-
6 porated, partially or in full, as part of the
7 Federal pipeline safety regulatory program
8 under this chapter;

9 “(ii) that has been modified by a
10 standards development organization (as de-
11 fined in section 2(a) of the National Coop-
12 erative Research and Production Act of
13 1993 (15 U.S.C. 4301(a))) since being
14 adopted or incorporated; and

15 “(iii) the modification of which has
16 been published by a standards development
17 organization (as defined in that section);
18 and

19 “(B) update, as determined necessary by
20 the Secretary, the adoption or incorporation of
21 each industry consensus standard reviewed
22 under subparagraph (A).

23 “(2) LIST OF INDUSTRY STANDARDS.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
25 maintain a publicly available list of all industry

1 standards considered for adoption or incorpora-
2 tion under this chapter, including—

3 “(i) the determination of the Sec-
4 retary with respect to each standard con-
5 sidered; and

6 “(ii) with respect to each standard not
7 adopted or incorporated in full, the rea-
8 soning for not adopting or incorporating
9 that standard in full.

10 “(B) AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 30
11 days after initial completion and each revision
12 of the list under subparagraph (A), the Sec-
13 retary shall publish the list on the public
14 website of the Pipeline and Hazardous Mate-
15 rials Safety Administration.

16 “(3) CONSIDERATION OF INDUSTRY CONSENSUS
17 STANDARDS.—In prescribing new safety standards
18 under this chapter, the Secretary shall consider
19 adopting or incorporating industry consensus stand-
20 ards.

21 “(4) PUBLIC ACCESS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For all industry con-
23 sensus standards incorporated or partially in-
24 corporated under this chapter on or after the
25 date of enactment of the PIPELINE Safety

1 Act of 2025, the Secretary shall publish on the
2 public website of the Pipeline and Hazardous
3 Materials Safety Administration the full text of
4 the standard or a direct link to an external
5 source where the full text is available to the
6 public on a website to view at no cost for the
7 duration of time that the Secretary has the in-
8 corporation by reference available for public
9 comment.

10 “(B) EXCEPTION.—If the full text of an
11 industry consensus standard is not published on
12 the public website of the Pipeline and Haz-
13 ardous Materials Safety Administration or
14 available from that website via a direct link to
15 an external source where the full text is avail-
16 able to the public on a website to view at no
17 cost for the duration of time that the Secretary
18 has the incorporation by reference available for
19 public comment, then the Secretary shall not
20 incorporate or partially incorporate under this
21 chapter that industry consensus standard by
22 reference.

23 “(C) PREVIOUSLY INCORPORATED STAND-
24 ARDS.—For industry consensus standards in-
25 corporated or partially incorporated under this

1 chapter before the date of enactment of the
2 PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025 that are pub-
3 licly available on a public-facing website at no
4 charge to the public, the Secretary shall publish
5 on the public website of the Pipeline and Haz-
6 ardous Materials Safety Administration the full
7 text of the standard or a direct link to an exter-
8 nal source where the full text is available to the
9 public on a website.”.

10 **SEC. 204. REPORT ON UPDATES TO THE NATIONAL PIPE-**
11 **LINE MAPPING SYSTEM.**

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

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

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

22 (2) what sources of scientific data are used for
23 those updates; and

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

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

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

8 Section 60142 of title 49, United States Code, is
9 amended—

10 (1) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “3 years
11 after the date of enactment of this section” and in-
12 serting “5 years after the date of enactment of the
13 PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025”;

14 (2) in subsection (d)—

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

17 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
18 ing the following:

19 “(2) DETERMINATION.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To accomplish the
21 purpose of a testing program, the Secretary
22 may issue an order waiving compliance with any
23 part of an applicable standard prescribed under
24 this chapter if the condition described in para-

1 graph (1) is met, as determined by the Sec-
2 retary.

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

9 (3) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the
10 following:

11 “(h) AUTHORITY TO TERMINATE PROGRAM.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall imme-
13 diately terminate a testing program under sub-
14 section (a) if continuation of the testing program
15 would not be consistent with the goals and objectives
16 of this chapter.

17 “(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 10 days
18 after the termination of a testing program under
19 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall notify the rel-
20 evant pipeline operators of how they can address any
21 deficiencies identified by the Secretary.

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

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

2 “(m) APPROVAL PROCESS.—Establishment of a test-
3 ing program under subsection (a) shall not be considered
4 a major Federal action (as defined in section 111 of the
5 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
6 4336e)) for purposes of that Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et
7 seq.).”.

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

9 (a) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Section
10 60115(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended,
11 in the fifth sentence, by inserting “and notify the appro-
12 priate committees of Congress (as defined in section 2 of
13 the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025)” after “the Secretary
14 shall publish the reasons”.

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

18 **SEC. 207. ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES.**

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

21 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

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

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

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

2 “(iii) to allow a recipient of a warning
3 under section 190.205 of title 49, Code of
4 Federal Regulations (or a successor regula-
5 tion), to discuss claims made in the warn-
6 ing with relevant staff;”;

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 “(2) HEARING REQUIREMENTS.—A hearing
24 under this section shall—

1 “(A) be noticed to the public on the
2 website of the Pipeline and Hazardous Mate-
3 rials Safety Administration on its own page ti-
4 tled ‘Upcoming Enforcement Hearings’;

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

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

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

13 (d) APPLICATION.—Section 60117(b)(1)(K) of title
14 49, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)(4))
15 shall apply only to civil penalties for violations that occur
16 on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

17 **SEC. 208. CIVIL PENALTIES.**

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

20 (1) in the first sentence, by striking
21 “\$200,000” and inserting “\$400,000”; and

22 (2) in the third sentence, by striking
23 “\$2,000,000” and inserting “\$4,000,000”.

1 **SEC. 209. IMPROVING WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.**

2 Section 60129 of title 49, United States Code, is
3 amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

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

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

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

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

13 (2) in subsection (b)(3)(B)—

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

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

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

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall gather
22 and assess any studies, data, standards, and approved ap-
23 plications available as of the date of enactment of this Act
24 that address the safety of composite materials to support
25 the safe transportation of—

26 (1) natural gas;

1 (2) hazardous liquids;

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

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

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

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

13 (d) RULEMAKING.—

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

24 (2) INCORPORATION OF EXISTING STAND-
25 ARDS.—The regulations promulgated under para-

1 graph (1) may include adoption or incorporation by
2 reference of existing industry consensus standards.

3 **SEC. 211. ELEMENTS AND EVALUATION OF STATE DAMAGE**
4 **PREVENTION PROGRAMS.**

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

7 (1) in subsection (b)—

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

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

13 (C) in the matter preceding subparagraph
14 (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “An” and
15 inserting the following:

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An”;

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

18 (i) by indenting subparagraphs (A)
19 through (I) appropriately; and

20 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing:

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

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

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

5 “(A) Restricting the size or scope of a one-
6 call ticket for standard locate requests (which
7 may include process exceptions for special large
8 project tickets).

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

13 “(C) Specifying tolerance (soft-dig only)
14 zone horizontal dimensions.

15 “(D) Specifying tolerance zone require-
16 ments.

17 “(E) Specifying emergency excavation noti-
18 fication requirements.

19 “(F) Specifying the responsibilities of exca-
20 vators, including the reporting of damages or
21 suspected damages.

22 “(G) Defining who is an excavator and
23 what is considered excavation.

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

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

7 “(J) Requiring that newly installed under-
8 ground facilities be locatable with commercially
9 available technology.

10 “(K) Requiring the marking of sewer lines
11 and laterals.

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

19 (A) by striking “In” and inserting the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In”; and

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

23 “(2) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—The evaluation
24 criteria used by the Secretary for determining the ef-
25 fectiveness of a State damage prevention program

1 shall include consideration of whether the State, at
2 a minimum—

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

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

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

13 “(ii) the organizations involved;

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

16 “(iv) the impact to the environment;

17 and

18 “(C) limits exemptions to State damage
19 prevention laws.”.

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 60114(f) of
21 title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “sec-
22 tion 60134(b)(7)” and inserting “section
23 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 fol-
5 lowing:

6 **“§ 60144. Voluntary information-sharing system**

7 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 “(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-
13 Sharing System Recommendation Report’ prepared
14 under section 10 of the PIPES Act of 2016 (49
15 U.S.C. 60108 note; Public Law 114–183) by the
16 Voluntary Information Sharing System Working
17 Group convened under that section.

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

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

23 “(B) to share recommended remediation
24 measures and lessons learned across the pipe-

1 line industry in an efficient and confidential
2 manner.

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

6 “(1) the Program Manager;

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

8 “(3) 1 or more Issue Analysis Teams.

9 “(d) GOVERNING BOARD.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
11 after the date of enactment of this section, the Ad-
12 ministrator, after consulting with public, govern-
13 ment, and private pipeline safety stakeholders, shall
14 establish a governing board for the VIS.

15 “(2) COMPOSITION.—

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

21 “(B) REPRESENTATION.—The Governing
22 Board shall be composed of the following mem-
23 bers:

24 “(i) 5 individuals selected from rel-
25 evant pipeline safety departments, agen-

1 cies, or instrumentalities of the Federal
2 Government or State or territorial govern-
3 ments, 1 of whom shall be the Adminis-
4 trator (or a designee of the Administrator).

5 “(ii) 5 individuals selected from the
6 gas or hazardous liquid industries, such as
7 individuals representing or otherwise asso-
8 ciated with—

9 “(I) operators;

10 “(II) trade associations;

11 “(III) inspection technology,
12 coating, or cathodic protection ven-
13 dors;

14 “(IV) standards development or-
15 ganizations;

16 “(V) research and development
17 consortia; or

18 “(VI) pipeline inspection organi-
19 zations.

20 “(iii) 5 individuals selected from gen-
21 eral public safety advocacy organizations
22 with relevant pipeline safety expertise, in-
23 cluding—

24 “(I) pipeline safety and environ-
25 mental public interest groups;

1 “(II) public institutions of higher
2 education with pipeline safety exper-
3 tise; and

4 “(III) nonprofit employee labor
5 organizations.

6 “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—

7 “(i) PIPELINE INDUSTRY.—At least 1
8 member of the Governing Board appointed
9 under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall be a rep-
10 resentative of the pipeline industry.

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

16 “(3) TERMS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
18 subparagraph (B), each member of the Gov-
19 erning Board shall be appointed for a term of
20 3 years.

21 “(B) INITIAL MEMBERS.—In appointing
22 the initial members of the Governing Board, the
23 Administrator shall appoint members to terms
24 of 1, 2, or 3 years to ensure that each year
25 thereafter—

1 “(i) the terms of 5 members will ex-
2 pire; and

3 “(ii) the term of not less than 1 and
4 not more than 2 members described in
5 each of clauses (i) through (iii) of para-
6 graph (2)(B) will expire.

7 “(C) REAPPOINTMENT.—A member or
8 former member of the Governing Board ap-
9 pointed under clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph
10 (2)(B) may be reappointed, but may only serve
11 for a total of 3 terms.

12 “(4) CO-CHAIRS.—

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

15 “(i) the Administrator (or a designee
16 of the Administrator);

17 “(ii) a representative of the pipeline
18 industry appointed under paragraph
19 (2)(B)(ii), who shall be appointed co-chair
20 by the Administrator, with the advice and
21 consent of the Governing Board; and

22 “(iii) a representative of a pipeline
23 safety public interest group, who shall be
24 appointed co-chair by the Administrator,

1 with the advice and consent of the Gov-
2 erning Board.

3 “(B) RESPONSIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.—
4 The co-chairs shall be jointly responsible for or-
5 ganizing and conducting meetings of the Gov-
6 erning Board.

7 “(5) AUTHORITY.—The Governing Board shall
8 have authority—

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

11 “(B) to develop governance documents, in-
12 cluding a charter for the Governing Board that
13 shall—

14 “(i) be made available to the public;
15 and

16 “(ii) describe—

17 “(I) the scope of the authority of
18 the Governing Board; and

19 “(II) the objectives of the Gov-
20 erning Board;

21 “(C) to select and appoint the Third-Party
22 Data Manager in accordance with subsection
23 (f);

24 “(D) to approve the criteria and proce-
25 dures governing how the Third-Party Data

1 Manager will receive and accept pipeline safety
2 data and information;

3 “(E) to establish, and appoint members of,
4 Issue Analysis Teams in accordance with sub-
5 section (g);

6 “(F) to collaborate with Issue Analysis
7 Teams to identify issues and topics to be ana-
8 lyzed by the Issue Analysis Teams;

9 “(G) to collaborate with Issue Analysis
10 Teams to specify the type of pipeline safety
11 data and information necessary for the Issue
12 Analysis Teams to analyze the issues and topics
13 identified under subparagraph (F);

14 “(H) to determine the information to be
15 disseminated by the VIS;

16 “(I) to determine the reports to be dis-
17 seminated by the VIS;

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

20 “(i) VIS processes;

21 “(ii) the membership of the Governing
22 Board;

23 “(iii) issues and topics being inves-
24 tigated and analyzed by Issue Analysis
25 Teams or the Governing Board;

1 “(iv) pipeline safety data and informa-
2 tion that the VIS has requested for sub-
3 mission to the VIS; and

4 “(v) safety trends identified by the
5 Administrator, Issue Analysis Teams, or
6 the Governing Board; and

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

9 “(i) necessary or appropriate; and

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

12 “(6) DECISIONMAKING.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Decisions and approv-
14 als of the Governing Board shall be made by a
15 super-majority of the members, as described in
16 subparagraph (B).

17 “(B) SUPERMAJORITY DESCRIBED.—A
18 supermajority referred to in subparagraph (A)
19 shall consist of not fewer than—

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

22 “(ii) 1 additional member of the Gov-
23 erning Board.

24 “(e) PROGRAM MANAGER.—

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

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

8 “(f) THIRD-PARTY DATA MANAGER.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governing Board shall
10 appoint a Third-Party Data Manager to provide
11 data management and data oversight services for the
12 VIS.

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

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

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

21 “(B) accept pipeline safety data and infor-
22 mation submitted to the VIS that meets the cri-
23 teria and procedures approved by the Governing
24 Board under subsection (d)(5)(D);

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

4 “(D) collaborate with Issue Analysis
5 Teams to analyze and aggregate pipeline safety
6 data and information that is accepted by the
7 VIS;

8 “(E) prepare reports as requested by the
9 Governing Board regarding the type of pipeline
10 safety data and information that is managed by
11 the VIS; and

12 “(F) make recommendations to the Gov-
13 erning Board regarding the management of
14 pipeline safety data and information by the
15 VIS, as appropriate.

16 “(g) ISSUE ANALYSIS TEAMS.—

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

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

1 “(A) subject to subparagraph (B), consist
2 of pipeline safety technical and subject matter
3 experts; and

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

7 “(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—An Issue Analysis
8 Team shall—

9 “(A) work with the Third-Party Data
10 Manager to aggregate and analyze pipeline
11 safety data and information submitted to the
12 VIS relating to the issues and topics analyzed
13 by the Issue Analysis Team; and

14 “(B) submit internal reports and rec-
15 ommendations to the Governing Board on those
16 issues and topics.

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

20 “(1) the VIS;

21 “(2) the Governing Board; or

22 “(3) any Issue Analysis Team.

23 “(i) PARTICIPATION IN THE VIS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The submission of data
25 and information to the VIS by any person shall be

1 voluntary, with no person compelled to participate
2 in, or to submit data or information to any person
3 for inclusion in, the VIS.

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

8 “(3) ENCOURAGING INFORMATION SHARING.—
9 The Governing Board shall encourage the voluntary
10 sharing of pipeline safety data and information
11 among—

12 “(A) operators of gas transmission pipe-
13 lines, gas distribution pipelines, and hazardous
14 liquid pipelines;

15 “(B) employees of those operators;

16 “(C) labor unions representing those em-
17 ployees;

18 “(D) contractors of the operators described
19 in subparagraph (A);

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

21 “(F) non-destructive evaluation experts;

22 “(G) the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
23 Safety Administration; and

24 “(H) representatives of—

25 “(i) State pipeline safety agencies;

- 1 “(ii) relevant Tribal agencies;
2 “(iii) pipeline safety public interest
3 groups;
4 “(iv) manufacturers of gas trans-
5 mission, gas distribution, and hazardous
6 liquid pipeline infrastructure and equip-
7 ment; and
8 “(v) relevant research and academic
9 institutions.

10 “(4) LIMITATION ON INCLUSION OF DATA AND
11 INFORMATION IN THE VIS.—Pipeline safety data and
12 information accepted by the Third-Party Data Man-
13 ager for inclusion in the VIS under subsection
14 (f)(3)(B) shall be related to the issues and topics
15 identified by the Governing Board for analysis by an
16 Issue Analysis Team under subsection (d)(5)(F).

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

- 22 “(A) pipeline integrity risk analysis infor-
23 mation;
24 “(B) lessons learned from accidents and
25 near misses;

1 “(C) process improvements;

2 “(D) technology deployment practices;

3 “(E) information obtained through VIS
4 pipeline safety surveys of pipeline operator em-
5 ployees, subject to the condition that such sur-
6 veys are voluntarily agreed to by the pipeline
7 operator;

8 “(F) pipeline safety data and information
9 which may lead to the identification of pipeline
10 safety risks, as specified by the Governing
11 Board; and

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

14 “(j) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To facilitate the sharing of
16 otherwise nonpublic pipeline safety data and infor-
17 mation with the VIS, the data and information ac-
18 cepted, stored, managed, analyzed, or produced by
19 the VIS—

20 “(A) shall be kept confidential by the VIS;
21 and

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

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

13 “(3) EXCEPTION.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
15 paragraphs (1) and (2) and subsections (k) and
16 (l), on approval by the Governing Board under
17 subparagraph (B), the Governing Board or the
18 Administrator may disclose de-identified non-
19 public information obtained by the VIS.

20 “(B) APPROVAL.—Approval to disclose de-
21 identified nonpublic information under subpara-
22 graph (A)—

23 “(i) shall be based on an analysis of
24 the de-identified nonpublic information;
25 and

1 “(ii) may, in the sole discretion of the
2 Governing Board, consist of any safety
3 findings or recommendations that the Gov-
4 erning Board determines to publish or au-
5 thorizes the Administrator to publish to
6 improve pipeline safety.

7 “(C) PUBLIC REPORTS.—In issuing public
8 reports under subsection (d)(5)(J), the Gov-
9 erning Board shall approve the disclosure of de-
10 identified nonpublic information obtained by the
11 VIS that the Governing Board determines is
12 necessary to adequately describe and illustrate
13 the issues and topics being investigated and
14 analyzed by Issue Analysis Teams or the Gov-
15 erning Board.

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

19 “(k) APPLICABILITY OF FOIA.—

20 “(1) EXEMPTION.—Any nonpublic information
21 that is accepted, stored, managed, analyzed, or pro-
22 duced by the VIS and subsequently obtained by the
23 Secretary or the Administrator from the VIS is ex-
24 empt from the requirements of section 552 of title
25 5.

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

4 “(1) EXCLUSION OF VIS INFORMATION IN LITIGA-
5 TION AND OTHER PROCEEDINGS.—

6 “(1) EXCLUDED EVIDENCE.—Except as pro-
7 vided in paragraph (3), any nonpublic information
8 that is accepted, stored, managed, analyzed, or pro-
9 duced by the VIS may not be obtained from the
10 VIS—

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

14 “(B) to initiate any enforcement action or
15 civil litigation against a pipeline operator or the
16 employees or contractors of a pipeline operator
17 relating to a probable violation under this chap-
18 ter (including any regulation promulgated or
19 order issued under this chapter).

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

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

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

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

7 “(C) is otherwise required to be reported
8 to the Secretary under part 190, 191 (including
9 information about an incident or accident), 192,
10 194, 195, or 199 of title 49, Code of Federal
11 Regulations (or successor regulations);

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

14 “(E) is developed or obtained from a
15 source other than the VIS, including through
16 discovery from a person or an entity other than
17 the VIS in an enforcement action or private liti-
18 gation.

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

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

23 “(2) otherwise limits or affects the discovery of
24 pipeline safety data and information arising from a

1 cause of action authorized under any other Federal,
2 State, or local law.

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

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

8 “(p) FUNDING.—

9 “(1) SUSTAINABLE FUNDING.—The Secretary
10 shall—

11 “(A) explore sustainable funding sources
12 for the VIS, including public-private partner-
13 ships; and

14 “(B) to the maximum extent practicable,
15 sustainably fund the VIS through the use of
16 those sustainable funding sources.

17 “(2) LIMITED ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—In addi-
18 tion to the fees collected under section 60301, the
19 Secretary may collect an additional \$5,000,000
20 under that section for each of fiscal years 2026
21 through 2030 to establish, implement, and manage
22 the VIS.”.

23 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 60101(a) of title 49,
24 United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (17) through
2 (26) as paragraphs (18), (19), (20), (25), (26), (27),
3 (22), (23), (24), and (28), respectively, and moving
4 the paragraphs so as to appear in numerical order;

5 (2) by inserting after paragraph (16) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(17) NONPUBLIC INFORMATION.—The term
8 ‘nonpublic information’ means any pipeline safety
9 data or information, regardless of form or format,
10 that—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“60144. Voluntary information-sharing system.”.

1 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

2 (1) Section 70012(c) of title 46, United States
3 Code, is amended by striking “section
4 60101(a)(18)” and inserting “section 60101(a)”.

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

9 **SEC. 213. TRANSPORTING GAS.**

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

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

15 “(26) TRANSPORTING GAS.—

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

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

20 (3) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting
21 the following:

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

24 “(i) gathering gas (except through
25 regulated gathering lines) in a rural area

1 outside a populated area designated by the
2 Secretary as a nonrural area; or

3 “(ii) the movement of gas by the
4 owner or operator of a plant for use as a
5 fuel, a feedstock, or for any other purpose
6 that directly supports plant operations
7 through—

8 “(I) in-plant piping systems that
9 are located entirely on the grounds of
10 the plant; or

11 “(II) transfer piping systems
12 that extend less than 1 mile in length
13 outside the grounds of the plant.”.

14 **SEC. 214. INSPECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF RIGHTS-OF-**
15 **WAY.**

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

19 “(f) INSPECTION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—

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

24 “(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this sub-
25 section affects any obligation to operate an un-

1 manned aircraft system in accordance with all rel-
2 evant Federal laws relating to the use of unmanned
3 aircraft systems.”.

4 (b) MANAGEMENT OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Section
5 60108(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

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

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each”;

9 (2) in paragraph (2)—

10 (A) by striking “(2) If” and inserting the
11 following:

12 “(2) REVISION.—If”;

13 (B) by indenting subparagraphs (A)
14 through (E) appropriately; and

15 (C) in subparagraph (D), by indenting
16 clauses (i) through (iii) appropriately;

17 (3) in paragraph (3), by indenting the para-
18 graph, and each subparagraph within the paragraph,
19 appropriately; and

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

21 “(4) ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF MAINTAINING
22 RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the review
24 conducted under paragraph (3), the Secretary
25 shall allow for an alternative method of main-

1 taining rights-of-way for pipelines and other
2 pipeline facilities under a voluntary program
3 carried out by the operator if the Secretary de-
4 termines that the alternative method—

5 “(i) achieves a level of safety at least
6 equal to the level of safety required by the
7 regulations promulgated under this chap-
8 ter; and

9 “(ii) allows for timely emergency re-
10 sponse.

11 “(B) PURPOSE.—An operator considering
12 implementing an alternative method described
13 in subparagraph (A) may consider incor-
14 porating into the plan for implementing that
15 method 1 or more conservation practices, in-
16 cluding—

17 “(i) integrated vegetation manage-
18 ment practices, including reduced mowing;

19 “(ii) the development of habitat and
20 forage for pollinators and other wildlife
21 through seeding or planting of diverse na-
22 tive forbs and grasses;

23 “(iii) practices relating to mainte-
24 nance strategies that promote early succes-
25 sional vegetation or limit disturbance dur-

1 ing periods of highest use by target polli-
2 nator species and other wildlife on pipeline
3 or facility rights-of-way, including—

4 “(I) increasing mowing height;

5 “(II) reducing mowing frequency;

6 and

7 “(III) refraining from mowing

8 monarch and other pollinator habitat

9 during periods in which monarchs or

10 other pollinators are present;

11 “(iv) an integrated vegetation man-

12 agement plan that may include approaches

13 such as mechanical tree and brush removal

14 and targeted and judicious use of herbi-

15 cides and mowing to address incompatible

16 or undesirable vegetation while promoting

17 compatible and beneficial vegetation on

18 pipeline and facility rights-of-way;

19 “(v) planting or seeding of deeply

20 rooted, regionally appropriate perennial

21 grasses and wildflowers, including milk-

22 weed, to enhance habitat;

23 “(vi) removing shallow-rooted grasses

24 from planting and seeding mixes, except

25 for use as nurse or cover crops; and

1 “(vii) obtaining expert training or as-
2 sistance on wildlife- and pollinator-friendly
3 practices, including—

4 “(I) native plant identification;

5 “(II) establishment and manage-
6 ment of regionally appropriate native
7 plants;

8 “(III) land management prac-
9 tices; and

10 “(IV) integrated vegetation man-
11 agement.

12 “(C) CONSULTATION.—

13 “(i) AVAILABLE GUIDANCE.—In devel-
14 oping alternative methods under this para-
15 graph, an operator shall consult any avail-
16 able guidance issued by—

17 “(I) the Secretary; or

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

22 “(ii) LEADING INDUSTRY PRAC-
23 TICES.—In the absence of guidance de-
24 scribed in clause (i), an operator may con-
25 sult leading industry practices and guid-

1 ance to develop and implement alternative
2 methods under this paragraph.

3 “(D) REQUIREMENTS.—An operator using
4 an alternative method under this paragraph
5 shall ensure that the alternative inspection
6 plans of the operator continue to ensure that
7 the operator can identify risks to pipeline facili-
8 ties.

9 “(E) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in
10 this paragraph exempts an operator from com-
11 pliance with any applicable requirements under
12 this chapter (including any regulations promul-
13 gated under this chapter).”.

14 (c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—5 years after the
15 date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of
16 the Department of Transportation shall initiate a review
17 of a representative sample of the inspection and mainte-
18 nance plans of operators that have utilized alternative
19 methods of maintaining rights-of-way under section
20 60108(a)(4) of title 49, United States Code, to deter-
21 mine—

22 (1) whether reduced mowing has limited the
23 ability of pipeline operators to assess risks to pipe-
24 line facilities;

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

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

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

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

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

14 **SEC. 215. GEOLOGICAL HAZARDS.**

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

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

19 and

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

21 “(iv) mitigation of threats posed by
22 geological hazards; and”.

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

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

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

8 (B) evaluates any industry consensus
9 standards or best practices relating to hazards
10 described in subparagraph (A);

11 (C) evaluates existing Federal require-
12 ments for pipeline facility design, construction,
13 operations, maintenance, and integrity that re-
14 late to mitigation of geological hazards; and

15 (D) makes recommendations to improve
16 geological hazard mitigation based on the find-
17 ings of the report.

18 (2) SUBMISSION.—On completion of the report
19 under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall submit
20 the report to the Secretary and the appropriate com-
21 mittees of Congress.

22 (c) REGULATORY REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year
23 after completion of the report under subsection (b)(1), the
24 Secretary shall review, and may update, as appropriate,
25 existing regulations and policy guidance that addresses the

1 safety of gas, hazardous liquid, and carbon dioxide pipe-
2 line facilities to include consideration of threats posed by
3 geological hazards.

4 **SEC. 216. ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES.**

5 (a) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.—Not later than 2
6 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every
7 5 years thereafter, the Administrator shall—

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

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

15 (b) REGULATIONS.—If the Secretary determines that
16 a technology that is commercially available would meet the
17 intent of an existing pipeline safety regulation and provide
18 an equal or greater level of pipeline safety, the Adminis-
19 trator may issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to up-
20 date the relevant regulations to allow operators to adopt
21 the use of such technology.

22 **SEC. 217. FIRE SHUTOFF VALVES.**

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

1 “(f) FIRE SHUTOFF VALVES OR EQUIVALENT TECH-
2 NOLOGY.—

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

4 “(A) EQUIVALENT TECHNOLOGY.—The
5 term ‘equivalent technology’ means any tech-
6 nology that—

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

8 “(ii) meets the performance standard
9 of shutting off gas on a service line of a
10 distribution system to a dwelling or other
11 building in the event of a fire.

12 “(B) FIRE-FIRST IGNITION.—The term
13 ‘fire-first ignition’ means an occurrence in
14 which a fire originating from a foreign source
15 causes a natural gas system to fail, release, or
16 ignite.

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

19 “(i) a fire shutoff valve; and

20 “(ii) any equivalent technology.

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

24 “(i) is made of a low-melting-point
25 alloy;

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

2 “(iii) melts when exposed to fire,
3 causing the spring-loaded plug to close,
4 shutting off the gas to a dwelling or other
5 building connected to a service line of a
6 distribution system.

7 “(2) STUDY.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
9 after the date of enactment of this subsection,
10 the Secretary shall complete a study on the ef-
11 fectiveness of fire safety valves in order to de-
12 termine the ability of fire safety valves to im-
13 prove public safety through mitigation of sec-
14 ondary ignitions, such as fire-first ignitions.

15 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The study under
16 subparagraph (A) shall evaluate—

17 “(i) various scenarios and applications
18 for deploying fire safety valves;

19 “(ii) the current incidence of fire-first
20 ignition of natural gas distribution pipe-
21 lines;

22 “(iii) anticipated reduction of fire-first
23 ignition risk under various fire safety valve
24 deployment scenarios, including—

1 “(I) lowering the likelihood of
2 gas ignition; and

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

5 “(iv) the long-term durability, con-
6 struction, and effectiveness of fire safety
7 valves; and

8 “(v) the commercial availability of fire
9 safety valves for the pipeline industry.

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

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

17 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
18 of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-
19 retary of Health and Human Services, shall update the
20 regulations of the Administration to provide that a covered
21 employee (as defined in section 199.3 of title 49, Code
22 of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)) whose
23 previous performance of a covered function (as defined in
24 that section (or a successor regulation)) takes place out-
25 side of the time frame during which the use of prohibited

1 drugs or alcohol can be detected by post-accident testing
2 under section 199.105(b) or 199.225(a), as applicable, of
3 that title (or successor regulations)) is exempt from such
4 post-accident testing.

5 **SEC. 219. MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE OPERATING PRESSURE**
6 **RECORDS.**

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

21 (b) WORKING GROUP REPORT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall direct
23 the existing maximum allowable operating pressure
24 working group of the Administration (referred to in
25 this subsection as the “working group”) to continue

1 producing a report containing recommendations on
2 the contemporaneous records that are sufficient to
3 confirm the material strength of a natural gas trans-
4 mission pipeline through prior testing.

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

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

12 (A) shall consider historical practices and
13 all available research conducted regarding min-
14 imum pressure and contemporaneous records on
15 transmission pipelines;

16 (B) may consider the need for any addi-
17 tional research or analyses necessary to dem-
18 onstrate the adequacy of any strength testing
19 performed; and

20 (C) shall consider the investigation, report,
21 and recommendations of the National Trans-
22 portation Safety Board following the San
23 Bruno pipeline explosion.

24 (4) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Not later than
25 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the

1 working group shall submit to the Secretary and the
2 appropriate committees of Congress the report pro-
3 duced under paragraph (1), including any minority
4 views.

5 (c) RULEMAKING.—

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

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

22 **SEC. 220. PIPELINE OPERATING STATUS.**

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

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

6 “(A) idled natural gas transmission pipe-
7 lines;

8 “(B) idled other gas transmission pipe-
9 lines; and

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

11 **SEC. 221. POTENTIAL IMPACT RADIUS.**

12 (a) DEFINITION OF POTENTIAL IMPACT RADIUS.—

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

17 (b) REVIEW OF METHODOLOGY.—

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

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

1 (B) any applicable recommendations, in-
2 cluding any pipeline safety recommendations
3 submitted to the Secretary or Congress by the
4 National Transportation Safety Board or the
5 Government Accountability Office.

6 (2) REPORT.—

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

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

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

24 (c) INVESTIGATION REPORTS.—Beginning not later
25 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, any

1 Pipeline Failure Investigation reports prepared by the Ac-
2 cident Investigation Division of the Administration for ac-
3 cidents involving onshore gas transmission pipelines shall
4 identify the location and distance from the pipeline of
5 damage, including injuries and property damage, outside
6 of the potential impact radius determined for the pipeline.

7 **SEC. 222. EFFECTS OF WEATHER ON NATURAL GAS PIPE-**
8 **LINES.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

19 (A) a natural gas pipeline; and

20 (B) any related pipeline facility, equip-
21 ment, or infrastructure.

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

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

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

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

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

14 (b) LIMITATION.—

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

19 (a).

20 (2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this sub-
21 section affects the authority of the Secretary
22 under—

23 (A) section 60112 of title 49, United
24 States Code; or

1 (B) subsection (m) or (p) of section 60117
2 of that title.

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

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

13 “(i) cast iron and bare steel pipelines;
14 and
15 “(ii) pipelines constructed of historic
16 plastics with known safety issues”.

17 (e) EVALUATION OF RISK IN DISTRIBUTION INTEG-
18 RITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.—Section
19 60109(e)(7)(A)(i) of title 49, United States Code, is
20 amended by striking “presence of cast iron pipes and
21 mains in the distribution system; and” and inserting the
22 following: “presence, in the distribution system, of pipes
23 and mains made of—

24 “(I) cast iron;

25 “(II) unprotected steel;

1 “(III) wrought iron; or
2 “(IV) historic plastics with
3 known safety issues; and”.

4 **SEC. 224. IMPROVEMENTS TO PIPELINE SAFETY INTEGRITY**
5 **MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.**

6 The Secretary shall conduct research into the use of
7 quantitative data and modeling to assess whether the use
8 of such data or modeling in the integrity management pro-
9 grams of operators would improve the estimation of costs
10 and benefits of risk reduction measures.

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

12 Section 60118(c) of title 49, United States Code, is
13 amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1)—

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

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

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

20 “(C) ACTION ON APPLICATION.—Not later
21 than 180 days after receiving an application for
22 a waiver under this paragraph, the Secretary
23 shall—

1 “(i) complete any applicable review re-
2 lating to the application and act on the ap-
3 plication by—

4 “(I) issuing an order granting
5 the waiver; or

6 “(II) denying the application; or

7 “(ii) inform the applicant that addi-
8 tional time is needed to review the applica-
9 tion, including by providing notifications of
10 the need for additional time at least once
11 every 180 days until the waiver is granted
12 or the application is denied.”; and

13 (2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
14 following:

15 “(3) STATEMENT OF REASONS.—The Secretary
16 shall state in an order issued under this subsection
17 that is publicly posted on the website of the Pipeline
18 and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration the
19 reasons for granting or denying the waiver.”.

20 **TITLE III—STREAMLINING**
21 **OVERSIGHT OF PIPELINES**

22 **SEC. 301. REGULATORY UPDATES.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the PIPES Act of
24 2020 (Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2220) is amend-
25 ed—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)—

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

5 (ii) by striking “that has not been
6 published in the Federal Register;” and in-
7 serting a period;

8 (B) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

14 (C) in paragraph (3)—

15 (i) by striking “any other” and insert-
16 ing “Any other”; and

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

19 (D) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
20 through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C),
21 respectively, and indenting appropriately;

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

23 “(D) A final rule required to be issued
24 under the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025.”;
25 and

1 (F) in the matter preceding subparagraph

2 (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “In this

3 section, the term ‘outstanding mandate’

4 means—” and inserting the following:

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term

6 ‘outstanding mandate’ means a final rule described

7 in paragraph (2) that—

8 “(A) is required to be issued by the Sec-

9 retary (including any subordinate of the Sec-

10 retary); and

11 “(B) has not been published in the Federal

12 Register.

13 “(2) FINAL RULE DESCRIBED.—A final rule re-

14 ferred to in paragraph (1) is any of the following:”;

15 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “referred to

16 in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a) is

17 published in the Federal Register” and inserting

18 “described in subsection (a)(2) is published in the

19 Federal Register with respect to the applicable out-

20 standing mandate”; and

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

22 “(d) REQUIRED BRIEFING.—If the Secretary fails to

23 update the website as required under subsection (b)(1),

24 an appropriate employee of the Administration shall pro-

25 vide an in-person briefing to the relevant committees of

1 Congress every 30 days until the requirements of that sub-
2 section are met.

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

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

13 (b) DEADLINE NONCOMPLIANCE.—

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

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

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

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

1 (A) The rulemaking required under section
2 60143(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, re-
3 lating to idled pipelines.

4 (B) The issuance of a final rule with re-
5 spect to the regulations required under section
6 60102(q)(1) of title 49, United States Code, re-
7 lating to gas pipeline leak detection and repair
8 programs.

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

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

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

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

14 “(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
15 GRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of
16 Congress’ has the meaning given the term in
17 section 2 of the PIPELINE Safety Act of
18 2025.

19 “(B) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The term
20 ‘Inspector General’ means the Inspector Gen-
21 eral of the Department of Transportation.

22 “(C) RISK-BASED INTEGRATED INSPEC-
23 TION PROGRAM.—The term ‘risk-based inte-
24 grated inspection program’ means an inspection
25 program that uses risk information and data to

1 focus inspection resources on pipeline facilities
2 and regulatory requirements that have the high-
3 est priority during an inspection.

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

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

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

20 “(B) shall ensure—

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

23 “(ii) that unsatisfactory conditions
24 found in inspections are addressed in a
25 timely manner.

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

7 “(5) EVALUATION TIMELINE.—

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

13 “(i) review the application; and

14 “(ii) approve or deny the application.

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

20 “(i) why the Secretary denied the ap-
21 plication; and

22 “(ii) changes that the State authority
23 could make to the application that would
24 result in the Secretary approving the appli-
25 cation.

1 “(6) REVIEW OF PROGRAMS.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
3 establish a process to review the implementation
4 of a risk-based integrated inspection program
5 by a State authority.

6 “(B) REVIEW BY INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

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

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

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

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

1 “(7) TERMINATION.—

2 “(A) TERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—

3 The Secretary may terminate an authorization
4 for a State authority to carry out a risk-based
5 integrated inspection program if—

6 “(i) the Secretary determines that the
7 State authority is not adequately carrying
8 out the program;

9 “(ii) the Secretary provides to the
10 State authority—

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

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

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

1 “(iii) the State authority, after the
2 notification described in clause (ii)(I), fails
3 to take satisfactory corrective action in ac-
4 cordance with clause (ii)(II) before the ex-
5 piration of the period provided under that
6 clause.

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

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

14 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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

24 (b) STUDY.—

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

5 (A) the Administration;

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

8 (C) State authorities with which the Sec-
9 retary has made an agreement under section
10 60106(a) of that title.

11 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study under para-
12 graph (1) shall—

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

16 (B) evaluate the extent of any—

17 (i) substantive overlap of inspections
18 carried out by the Administration and the
19 State partners, such that the Administra-
20 tion and the State partners are inspecting
21 the same operator programs and proce-
22 dures multiple times in the same annual or
23 biennial period;

24 (ii) substantive overlap of inspections
25 carried out by offices in different regions,

1 such that offices in multiple regions are in-
2 specting the same operator programs and
3 procedures multiple times in the same an-
4 nual or biennial period;

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

10 (iv) coordination among offices in dif-
11 ferent regions and between the Administra-
12 tion and State partners on the scheduling
13 and scoping of inspections of operators to
14 avoid substantive overlaps;

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

21 (vi) opportunities—

22 (I) to reduce substantive unnec-
23 essary overlaps (in the process of
24 which the Comptroller General of the
25 United States shall identify and de-

1 scribe any overlaps that the Comp-
2 troller the believes are necessary);

3 (II) to avoid inconsistent inter-
4 pretations—

5 (aa) by offices in different
6 regions; and

7 (bb) between the Adminis-
8 tration and State partners;

9 (III) to optimize inspection
10 scheduling and coordination; and

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

13 (C) review the Federal enforcement process
14 for its ability to fairly ensure compliance with
15 Federal pipeline safety laws.

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

25 (1) without compromising pipeline safety; and

1 (2) while improving the enforcement process.

2 (d) SUMMARY OF PIPELINE INSPECTIONS.—Not later
3 than June 1 of each year beginning after the date of en-
4 actment of this Act, the Administrator shall make avail-
5 able to the public in an electronically accessible format a
6 summary of Federal and State pipeline inspections con-
7 ducted under direct or delegated authority under title 49,
8 United States Code, during the previous calendar year, in-
9 cluding—

10 (1) the date of the inspection;

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

12 (3) the pipeline system or segment inspected;

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

15 (5) the 1 or more States in which the inspected
16 system or segment operates;

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

19 (7) any enforcement actions taken.

20 **SEC. 304. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PHMSA ENGAGEMENT**
21 **PRIOR TO RULEMAKING ACTIVITIES.**

22 It is the sense of Congress that, if the Secretary de-
23 termines it to be appropriate, the Secretary should engage
24 with pipeline stakeholder groups, including State pipeline
25 safety programs with an approved certification under sec-

tion 60105 of title 49, United States Code, and the public during predrafting stages of rulemaking activities—

(1) to inform the work of the Secretary in carrying out the goals of chapter 601 of title 49, United States Code; and

(2) to reduce the timeline for issuance of proposed and final rules.

TITLE IV—IMPROVING SAFETY OF EMERGING GASES

SEC. 401. STUDIES OF HYDROGEN PIPELINE TRANSPORTATION.

(a) STUDY.—

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

(A) to conduct a study of the safety, technical, and practical considerations relating to the blending of hydrogen into existing natural gas systems;

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

(C) to make recommendations to the Secretary for how to avoid or minimize any risks identified under paragraph (2)(C).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (b) GAO REPORT.—

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

1 tors have implemented to operate those systems
2 safely.

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

7 (A) the United States;

8 (B) Canada;

9 (C) Europe;

10 (D) Australia;

11 (E) Hong Kong; and

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

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

23 (c) REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS.—

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

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

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

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

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

16 (2) affects—

17 (A) the authority of the Secretary under—

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

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

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

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

2 (a) MINIMUM SAFETY STANDARDS.—

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

12 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—

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

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

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

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

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

14 (B) VAPOR DISPERSION MODELING.—
15 Vapor dispersion modeling under subparagraph
16 (A)(ii) shall consider—

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

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

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

23 (C) CONSIDERATIONS.—Any standard
24 adopted by the final rule required under para-
25 graph (1) shall consider—

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

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

11 (c) ODORANT.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (2) the oil spill response plans required under
24 part 194 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or

1 successor regulations), for operators transporting di-
2 luted bitumen oil.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (b) LOCATION.—The Center of Excellence shall be lo-
23 cated—

24 (1) within the Great Lakes Basin;

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

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

9 (c) REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT.—

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

18 (A) the resources necessary to establish the
19 Center of Excellence; and

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

23 (2) REQUIREMENT.—The report under para-
24 graph (1) shall include an estimate of all potential

1 costs and appropriations necessary to carry out the
2 functions described in subsection (d).

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

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

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

11 (3) be a repository of information on best prac-
12 tices relating to, and expertise on, hazardous liquid
13 leak detection; and

14 (4) perform other duties, as determined by the
15 Secretary, to improve leak detection for hazardous
16 liquid pipelines.

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

21 (1) to provide for joint operation of the Center
22 of Excellence; and

23 (2) to provide necessary administrative services
24 for the Center of Excellence.

1 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
2 on which the Center of Excellence is established under
3 subsection (a), the Center of Excellence shall submit to
4 the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the
5 findings of the Center of Excellence with respect to leak
6 detection technologies that can detect leaks at very low
7 volumes.

8 **SEC. 503. OPERATOR FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.**

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

15 **SEC. 504. DATA AND TRANSPARENCY.**

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

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

23 Section 108 of title 49, United States Code, is
24 amended—

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

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

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

8 “(h) OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 “(B) be responsible for the discharge of
6 the functions and duties of the Office.

7 “(4) EMPLOYEES.—The Director shall—

8 “(A) appoint and assign the duties of em-
9 ployees of the Office; and

10 “(B) prioritize the hiring of individuals
11 who have experience in community engagement,
12 including working with the public, State, local
13 and Tribal governments, and pipeline safety
14 public interest groups.

15 “(5) COMMUNITY LIAISONS.—The Director
16 shall appoint agency community liaison personnel
17 employed as of the date on which the Office is estab-
18 lished as employees of the Office.

19 “(6) DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE OF-
20 FICE.—

21 “(A) COORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE.—
22 The Director shall coordinate the provision of
23 technical assistance and educational assistance
24 to the public with respect to the authorities ex-
25 ercised by the Administration.

1 “(B) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.—The Direc-
2 tor shall coordinate active and ongoing engage-
3 ment with the public with respect to the author-
4 ity and activities of the Administration, includ-
5 ing by—

6 “(i) conducting—

7 “(I) outreach, which may include
8 public postings, signage at relevant
9 physical locations, newspaper publica-
10 tions, mailings, phone calls, can-
11 vassing, and door hangers, to commu-
12 nities using varied media; and

13 “(II) when appropriate, meetings;

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

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

20 “(iv) assisting individuals in con-
21 tacting, as necessary, the Federal Energy
22 Regulatory Commission, State agencies,
23 and other agencies, in order to appro-
24 priately direct public inquiries that are not

1 within the jurisdiction of the Administra-
2 tion to the relevant agency; and

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

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

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

14 (1) review—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 **TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS**

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

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

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

24 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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

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

10 “(B) The Russian Federation.

11 “(C) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

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

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

16 “(F) The Republic of Cuba.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 (f) LIMITATIONS.—

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

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

14 (3) COST SHARING.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (h) FUNDING.—

17 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

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

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

24 (A) shall be derived from general revenues;

25 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (2) in subsection (d)—

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

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

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

10 (C) in paragraph (5)—

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

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

19 (D) in paragraph (6)—

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

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

24 (3) in subsection (h)—

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

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

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

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

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

19 “(C) DEADLINES.—

20 “(i) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (f) TECHNICAL SAFETY STANDARDS COMMITTEES.—

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

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

7 (1) in the first sentence, by striking “Not later
8 than 12 months after the date of enactment of the
9 Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002” and in-
10 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 (c), by striking “State and
19 local” and inserting “State, local, and Tribal”; and

20 (2) in subsection (e), in the first sentence, by
21 striking “State and local” and inserting “State,
22 local, and Tribal”.

23 (l) COORDINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.—
24 Section 60133 of title 49, United States Code, is amend-
25 ed—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(5), by striking “and local”
2 and inserting “, local, and Tribal”; and
3 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting “Tribal,”
4 after “State,”.

5 **SEC. 604. IDENTIFICATION OF AND JUSTIFICATION FOR**
6 **REDACTIONS.**

7 If the Administration redacts any portion of a docu-
8 ment produced to another person, the Administration shall
9 cite a specific statute authorizing the withholding of the
10 information redacted.

11 **SEC. 605. FEES FOR LOAN GUARANTEES.**

12 Section 116(d) of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline
13 Act (15 U.S.C. 720n(d)) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1)—

15 (A) by striking “(1) The Secretary” and
16 inserting the following:

17 “(1) LOAN TERMS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

19 (B) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-
20 ignated), in the second sentence, by striking
21 “The term” and inserting the following:

22 “(B) DURATION.—The term”; and

23 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “(2) An eligi-
24 ble” and inserting the following:

25 “(2) FEES.—

1 “(A) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

2 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
3 any other provision of law, the Secretary
4 shall charge, and collect on or after the
5 date of the financial close of an obligation,
6 a fee for a guarantee in an amount that
7 the Secretary determines is sufficient to
8 cover applicable administrative expenses
9 (including any costs associated with third-
10 party consultants engaged by the Sec-
11 retary).

12 “(ii) AVAILABILITY.—Fees collected
13 under this paragraph shall—

14 “(I) be deposited by the Sec-
15 retary into the Treasury; and

16 “(II) remain available to the Sec-
17 retary, without further appropriation,
18 until expended to cover applicable ad-
19 ministrative expenses described in
20 clause (i).

21 “(iii) REDUCTION IN FEE AMOUNT.—

22 Notwithstanding clause (i), and subject to
23 the availability of appropriations, the Sec-
24 retary may reduce the amount of a fee for
25 a guarantee under this subparagraph.

1 “(B) DEBT OBLIGATIONS.—An eligible”.

2 **SEC. 606. IMPROVING PIPELINE CYBERSECURITY.**

3 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
4 of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall pub-
5 lish in the Federal Register a final rule pursuant to the
6 rulemaking proceeding entitled “Enhancing Surface Cyber
7 Risk Management” (Docket Number TSA–2022–0001;
8 Regulation Identifier Number 1652–AA74) relating to the
9 cybersecurity of pipelines.

10 **SEC. 607. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

11 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 60101(a) of title 49,
12 United States Code (as amended by section 212(b)), is
13 amended—

14 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
15 striking “chapter—” and inserting “chapter:”;

16 (2) in each of paragraphs (1) through (16),
17 (18), (19), (20), (22) (23), (25), and (27), by strik-
18 ing the semicolon at the end of the paragraph and
19 inserting a period;

20 (3) in paragraph (1)—

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

24 “(1) EXISTING LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS FA-
25 CILITY.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘existing li-
2 quefied natural gas facility’ means”;

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

5 (C) in subparagraph (B)—

6 (i) by striking “(B) does not” and in-
7 serting the following:

8 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘existing
9 liquefied natural gas facility’ does not”; and

10 (ii) by inserting “described in sub-
11 paragraph (A)” after “approval”;

12 (4) in paragraph (14)—

13 (A) by striking the paragraph designation
14 and all that follows through “(A) means” in
15 subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

16 “(14) LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FA-
17 CILITY.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘liquefied
19 natural gas pipeline facility’ means”;

20 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;
21 but” and inserting a period; and

22 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “(B)
23 does not” and inserting the following:

24 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘liquefied
25 natural gas pipeline facility’ does not”;

1 (5) in paragraph (24) (relating to the term
2 “Secretary”), by striking “; and” and inserting a pe-
3 riod;

4 (6) in paragraph (27)—

5 (A) by striking the paragraph designation
6 and all that follows through “(A) means” in
7 subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

8 “(27) TRANSPORTING HAZARDOUS LIQUID.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘trans-
10 porting hazardous liquid’ means”;

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

13 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “(B)
14 does not” and inserting the following:

15 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘trans-
16 porting hazardous liquid’ does not”; and

17 (7) in each of paragraphs (2) through (13),
18 (15), (16), (18), (19), (20), (22) through (25), and
19 (28)—

20 (A) by inserting “The term” after the
21 paragraph designation; and

22 (B) by inserting a paragraph heading, the
23 text of which comprises the term defined in the
24 paragraph.

- 1 (b) REPORT.—Section 60102(b) of title 49, United
- 2 States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (7).