

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 5301
OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF MISSOURI

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS; DEFINI-
2 TION.

3 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
4 “Promoting Innovation in Pipeline Efficiency and Safety
5 Act of 2025” or the “PIPES Act of 2025”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents; definition.
- Sec. 2. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Workforce development.
- Sec. 5. Regulatory updates.
- Sec. 6. Incorporation by reference.
- Sec. 7. Inspection activity reporting.
- Sec. 8. Technical safety standards committees.
- Sec. 9. Sense of Congress on PHMSA engagement prior to rulemaking activities.
- Sec. 10. Office of Public Engagement.
- Sec. 11. Class location changes.
- Sec. 12. Pipeline operating status.
- Sec. 13. Rights-of-way management.
- Sec. 14. Study on composite materials for pipelines.
- Sec. 15. Competitive Academic Agreement Program.
- Sec. 16. Geohazard mitigation study.
- Sec. 17. Special permit program.
- Sec. 18. Excavation damage prevention.
- Sec. 19. Integrity management study.
- Sec. 20. Hydrogen study.
- Sec. 21. Penalty for causing a defect in or disrupting operation of pipeline infrastructure.

- Sec. 22. Civil penalties.
- Sec. 23. Liquefied natural gas regulatory coordination.
- Sec. 24. Pipeline safety voluntary information-sharing system.
- Sec. 25. Carbon dioxide pipelines.
- Sec. 26. Opportunity for formal hearing.
- Sec. 27. State pipeline safety grants reporting.
- Sec. 28. Disclosure of safety information assessment.
- Sec. 29. Assessment of certain pipeline safety definitions.
- Sec. 30. Report assessing the costs of pipeline failures.
- Sec. 31. Study on localized emergency alert system for pipeline facilities incidents.
- Sec. 32. Maximum allowable operating pressure.

1 (c) STATE DEFINED.—In this Act, the term “State”
2 has the meaning given such term in section 60101(a) of
3 title 49, United States Code.

4 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 (a) GAS AND HAZARDOUS LIQUID.—Section 60125
6 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking
7 subsection (a) and inserting the following:

8 “(a) GAS AND HAZARDOUS LIQUID.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From fees collected under
10 section 60301, there are authorized to be appro-
11 priated to the Secretary to carry out section 12 of
12 the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (49
13 U.S.C. 60101 note; Public Law 107–355) and the
14 provisions of this chapter relating to gas and haz-
15 ardous liquid—

16 “(A) \$181,400,000 for fiscal year 2026, of
17 which—

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

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

3 “(ii) \$73,000,000 shall be used for
4 making grants;

5 “(B) \$189,800,000 for fiscal year 2027, of
6 which—

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

11 “(ii) \$75,000,000 shall be used for
12 making grants;

13 “(C) \$198,200,000 for fiscal year 2028, of
14 which—

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

19 “(ii) \$77,000,000 shall be used for
20 making grants; and

21 “(D) \$206,600,000 for fiscal year 2029, of
22 which—

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

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

3 “(ii) \$79,000,000 shall be used for
4 making grants.

5 “(2) TRUST FUND AMOUNTS.—In addition to
6 the amounts authorized to be appropriated under
7 paragraph (1), there are authorized to be appro-
8 priated from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund es-
9 tablished by section 9509(a) of the Internal Revenue
10 Code of 1986 to carry out section 12 of the Pipeline
11 Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (49 U.S.C. 60101
12 note; Public Law 107–355) and the provisions of
13 this chapter relating to hazardous liquid—

14 “(A) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2026, of
15 which—

16 “(i) \$2,000,000, pursuant to the au-
17 thority in section 12(f) of the Pipeline
18 Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (49
19 U.S.C. 60101 note; Public Law 107–355),
20 shall be used to carry out section 12 of
21 such Act; and

22 “(ii) \$11,000,000 shall be used for
23 making grants;

24 “(B) \$30,500,000 for fiscal year 2027, of
25 which—

1 “(i) \$2,000,000, pursuant to the au-
2 thority in section 12(f) of the Pipeline
3 Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (49
4 U.S.C. 60101 note; Public Law 107–355),
5 shall be used to carry out section 12 of
6 such Act; and

7 “(ii) \$11,500,000 shall be used for
8 making grants;

9 “(C) \$31,000,000 for fiscal year 2028, of
10 which—

11 “(i) \$2,000,000, pursuant to the au-
12 thority in section 12(f) of the Pipeline
13 Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (49
14 U.S.C. 60101 note; Public Law 107–355),
15 shall be used to carry out section 12 of
16 such Act; and

17 “(ii) \$12,000,000 shall be used for
18 making grants; and

19 “(D) \$31,500,000 for fiscal year 2029, of
20 which—

21 “(i) \$2,000,000, pursuant to the au-
22 thority in section 12(f) of the Pipeline
23 Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (49
24 U.S.C. 60101 note; Public Law 107–355),

1 shall be used to carry out section 12 of
2 such Act; and

3 “(ii) \$12,500,000 shall be used for
4 making grants.

5 “(3) UNDERGROUND NATURAL GAS STORAGE
6 FACILITY SAFETY ACCOUNT.—From fees collected
7 under section 60302, there is authorized to be ap-
8 propriated to the Secretary to carry out section
9 60141 \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
10 through 2029.

11 “(4) RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.—From
12 amounts made available to the Secretary under
13 paragraphs (1) and (2), the Secretary shall use, to
14 carry out section 104(a) of the PIPES Act of 2025
15 and section 102(c) of the Protecting our Infrastruc-
16 ture of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2020
17 (Public Law 116–260)—

18 “(A) \$3,400,000 for fiscal year 2026, of
19 which—

20 “(i) \$2,890,000 shall be from
21 amounts made available under paragraph
22 (1)(A); and

23 “(ii) \$510,000 shall be from amounts
24 made available under paragraph (2)(A);

1 “(B) \$5,100,000 for fiscal year 2027, of
2 which—

3 “(i) \$4,335,000 shall be from
4 amounts made available under paragraph
5 (1)(B); and

6 “(ii) \$765,000 shall be from amounts
7 made available under paragraph (2)(B);

8 “(C) \$6,800,000 for fiscal year 2028, of
9 which—

10 “(i) \$5,780,000 shall be from
11 amounts made available under paragraph
12 (1)(C); and

13 “(ii) \$1,020,000 shall be from
14 amounts made available under paragraph
15 (2)(C); and

16 “(D) \$8,500,000 for fiscal year 2029, of
17 which—

18 “(i) \$7,225,000 shall be from
19 amounts made available under paragraph
20 (1)(D); and

21 “(ii) \$1,275,000 shall be from
22 amounts made available under paragraph
23 (2)(D).”.

24 (b) OPERATIONAL EXPENSES.—Section 2(b) of the
25 PIPES Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–183; 130 Stat. 515)

1 is amended by striking paragraphs (1) through (3) and
2 inserting the following:

3 “(1) \$31,681,000 for fiscal year 2026.

4 “(2) \$32,000,000 for fiscal year 2027.

5 “(3) \$33,000,000 for fiscal year 2028.

6 “(4) \$34,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.”.

7 (c) ONE-CALL NOTIFICATION PROGRAMS.—Section
8 6107 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by strik-
9 ing “\$1,058,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through
10 2023” and inserting “\$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years
11 2026 through 2029”.

12 (d) EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS.—Section
13 60125(b)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended
14 by striking “fiscal years 2021 through 2023” and insert-
15 ing “fiscal years 2026 through 2029”.

16 (e) PIPELINE SAFETY INFORMATION GRANTS TO
17 COMMUNITIES.—Section 60130(c)(1) of title 49, United
18 States Code, is amended by striking “\$2,000,000 for each
19 of fiscal years 2021 through 2023 to carry out this sec-
20 tion.” and inserting the following: “, to carry out this sec-
21 tion, the following:

22 “(A) \$2,250,000 for fiscal year 2026.

23 “(B) \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2027.

24 “(C) \$2,750,000 for fiscal year 2028.

25 “(D) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.”.

1 (f) IMPROVING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section
2 60130(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

3 (1) by striking “each fiscal year, the Secretary
4 shall award \$1,000,000” and inserting “, the Sec-
5 retary shall award”; and

6 (2) by striking the period at the end and insert-
7 ing the following: “the following amounts:

8 “(A) \$1,250,000 for fiscal year 2026.

9 “(B) \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2027.

10 “(C) \$1,750,000 for fiscal year 2028.

11 “(D) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.”.

12 (g) DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—Section
13 60134(i) of title 49, United States Code, is amended in
14 the first sentence by striking “\$1,500,000 for each of fis-
15 cal years 2021 through 2023” and inserting “\$2,000,000
16 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029”.

17 (h) PIPELINE INTEGRITY PROGRAM.—Section 12(f)
18 of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (49
19 U.S.C. 60101 note) is amended—

20 (1) by striking “\$3,000,000” and inserting
21 “\$2,000,000”; and

22 (2) by striking “2021 through 2023” and in-
23 serting “2026 through 2029”.

24 (i) SECURING SYSTEMS GRANTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 601 of title 49,
2 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
3 end of the following:

4 **“§ 60144. Safe Energy for Communities Updating and**
5 **Replacing Infrastructure for Natural Gas**
6 **Systems grants**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide
8 grants to assist publicly owned natural gas distribution
9 pipeline systems to—

10 “(1) advance the safe delivery of energy
11 through reducing the risk profile of existing munic-
12 ipal and community-owned natural gas distribution
13 infrastructure that contains high-risk or leaking
14 pipelines that may result in fatalities, injuries, or
15 significant damages to property resulting from unin-
16 tentional natural gas leaks; and

17 “(2) reduce monetary losses to the utility.

18 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to re-
19 ceive a grant under this section is a natural gas distribu-
20 tion system utility owned and operated by a—

21 “(1) community;

22 “(2) municipality;

23 “(3) city or township;

24 “(4) county; or

25 “(5) Federally-recognized Tribal government.

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

8 “(d) USES.—A grant provided under this section may
9 be used to repair, rehabilitate, or replace a natural gas
10 distribution pipeline system or portions of a natural gas
11 distribution pipeline system.

12 “(e) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary shall estab-
13 lish procedures for awarding grants under this section that
14 take into consideration—

15 “(1) the risk profile of the existing pipeline sys-
16 tem operated by the applicant, including the pres-
17 ence of pipe prone to leakage, and how the project
18 would improve the safe delivery of energy;

19 “(2) the financial ability of the utility to fund
20 the project in the absence of Federal financial assist-
21 ance;

22 “(3) the ability for the project to reduce mone-
23 tary losses to the utility by improving system reli-
24 ability, reducing lost natural gas from leaking pipe,

1 or reducing costs associated with maintenance and
2 repair activities; and

3 “(4) the legal authority and capability of the
4 applicant to carry out the project.

5 “(f) PRIORITIZATION.—In making grants for projects
6 eligible under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize
7 grants for projects that—

8 “(1) serve a rural area, as defined in section
9 22907(g)(2) or an economically distressed commu-
10 nity that meets the eligibility criteria described in
11 section 301 of the Public Works and Economic De-
12 velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161); or

13 “(2) address the highest safety concerns based
14 on the risk profile and condition of the existing pipe-
15 line system as outlined in the operator’s distribution
16 integrity management plan, factoring in relevant
17 data, leak statistics, and risk analysis.

18 “(g) LIMITATIONS.—

19 “(1) AWARDS TO A SINGLE UTILITY.—The Sec-
20 retary may not award more than 12.5 percent of the
21 total amount made available in any fiscal year to
22 carry out this section to a single eligible entity de-
23 scribed in subsection (b).

24 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more
25 than 2 percent of the amounts appropriated pursu-

1 ant to subsection (i)(1) for a fiscal year may be used
2 by the Secretary for the administrative costs of car-
3 rying out this section.

4 “(h) COST SHARING.—The total amount awarded for
5 a project under this section shall be not less than 90 per-
6 cent of the total eligible project costs for uses described
7 in subsection (d).

8 “(i) FUNDING.—

9 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
10 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
11 retary to carry out this section \$150,000,000 for
12 each of fiscal years 2027 through 2029, to remain
13 available until expended.

14 “(2) REQUIREMENT.—Any amounts used to
15 carry out this section—

16 “(A) shall be derived from the General
17 Fund of the Treasury; and

18 “(B) shall not be derived from user fees
19 collected under section 60301.”.

20 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
21 chapter 601 of title 49, United States Code, is
22 amended by adding at the end the following:

“60144. Safe Energy for Communities Updating and Replacing Infrastructure
for Natural Gas Systems grants.”.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 Section 60101(a) of title 49, United States Code, is
3 amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (8)(B) by inserting “and car-
5 bon dioxide” after “hazardous liquid”;

6 (2) in paragraph (18) by inserting “, a carbon
7 dioxide pipeline facility,” after “gas pipeline facil-
8 ity”;

9 (3) in paragraph (19) by inserting “, trans-
10 porting carbon dioxide,” after “transporting gas”;

11 (4) in paragraph (24) by inserting “, carbon di-
12 oxide,” after “a gas”;

13 (5) in paragraph (25) by striking “and” at the
14 end;

15 (6) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3),
16 (4), (5), (6), (9), (7), (10), (8), (11), (12), (13),
17 (14), (15), (16), (17), (18), (19), (23), (24), (25),
18 (20), (21), (22), and (26) as paragraphs (4), (5),
19 (6), (7), (8), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), (17),
20 (18), (19), (20), (21), (23), (24), (25), (27), (28),
21 (29), (30), (32), (33), and (35), respectively, and
22 transferring the paragraphs so as to appear in nu-
23 merical order;

24 (7) by inserting before paragraph (4), as so re-
25 designated, the following:

1 “(1) ‘carbon dioxide’ means a product stream
2 consisting of more than 50 percent carbon dioxide
3 molecules in any state of matter except solid;

4 “(2) ‘carbon dioxide pipeline facility’—

5 “(A) means a pipeline, a right of way, a
6 facility, a building, or equipment used, or in-
7 tended to be used, in transporting carbon diox-
8 ide or treating carbon dioxide during the trans-
9 portation of such carbon dioxide; but

10 “(B) does not include any storage facility,
11 piping, or equipment covered by the exclusion in
12 section 60102(i)(3)(B)(ii);

13 “(3) ‘de-identified’ means the process by which
14 all information that is likely to establish the identity
15 of the specific persons, organizations, or entities
16 submitting reports, data, or other information is re-
17 moved from reports, data, or other information;”;

18 (8) by inserting after paragraph (8), as so re-
19 designated, the following:

20 “(9) ‘interstate carbon dioxide pipeline facility’
21 means a carbon dioxide pipeline facility used to
22 transport carbon dioxide in interstate or foreign
23 commerce;

1 “(10) ‘intrastate carbon dioxide pipeline facility’
2 means a carbon dioxide pipeline facility that is not
3 an interstate carbon dioxide facility;”;

4 (9) by inserting after paragraph (21), as so re-
5 designated, the following:

6 “(22) ‘non-public pipeline safety data and infor-
7 mation’ means any pipeline safety data or informa-
8 tion, regardless of form or format, that a company
9 does not disclose, disseminate, or make available to
10 the public or that is not otherwise in the public do-
11 main;”;

12 (10) by inserting after paragraph (25), as so
13 redesignated, the following:

14 “(26) ‘public information’ means any data or
15 information, regardless of form or format, that a
16 company discloses, disseminates, or makes available
17 to the public or that is otherwise in the public do-
18 main;”;

19 (11) by inserting after paragraph (30), as so
20 redesignated, the following:

21 “(31) ‘transporting carbon dioxide’ means the
22 movement of carbon dioxide or the storage of carbon
23 dioxide incidental to the movement of carbon dioxide
24 by pipeline, in or affecting interstate or foreign com-
25 merce;” and

1 (12) by inserting after paragraph (33), as so
2 redesignated, the following:

3 “(34) ‘Tribal’ means relating to Indian Tribes,
4 as such term is defined in section 102 of the Feder-
5 ally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25
6 U.S.C. 5130); and”.

7 **SEC. 4. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.**

8 (a) **ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOY-**
9 **EES.**—In addition to the personnel level authorized for the
10 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
11 as of the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
12 of such Administration may increase the number of full-
13 time equivalent employees in or directly supporting the ac-
14 tivities of the Office of Pipeline Safety by not more than
15 30 positions for employees who have advanced engineer-
16 ing, scientific, or other technical expertise (or equivalent
17 experience) to—

18 (1) develop and implement pipeline safety poli-
19 cies and regulations; and

20 (2) fulfill congressional rulemaking mandates.

21 (b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 1 year after
22 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-
23 portation shall submit to Congress a report on—

24 (1) any progress made on implementation of
25 subsection (a);

1 (2) the implementation of the recruitment and
2 retention incentives authorized in section 102 of the
3 PIPES Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–260);

4 (3) barriers and challenges to hiring and reten-
5 tion at the Administration;

6 (4) staffing levels of inspection and enforcement
7 personnel of the Administration; and

8 (5) any additional workforce needs of the Ad-
9 ministration.

10 (c) EFFECT ON EXISTING REGULATION.—Section
11 102(c) of the PIPES Act of 2020 (49 U.S.C. 60101 note)
12 is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
13 following:

14 “(3) EFFECT ON EXISTING REGULATION.—In
15 implementing the incentives described in paragraph
16 (1), the Secretary, in consultation with the Adminis-
17 trator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safe-
18 ty Administration, may waive existing regulations.”.

19 **SEC. 5. REGULATORY UPDATES.**

20 (a) DEFINITION OF OUTSTANDING MANDATE.—In
21 this section, the term “outstanding mandate” means—

22 (1) a final rule required to be issued under the
23 Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Cre-
24 ation Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–90) that has not
25 been published in the Federal Register;

1 (2) a final rule required to be issued under the
2 PIPES Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–183) that has
3 not been published in the Federal Register;

4 (3) a final rule required to be issued under the
5 PIPES Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–260) that has
6 not been published in the Federal Register; and

7 (4) any other final rule regarding gas or haz-
8 ardous liquid pipeline facilities that—

9 (A) has not been published in the Federal
10 Register; and

11 (B) is required to be issued under this Act
12 or any other Act.

13 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—

14 (1) PERIODIC UPDATES.—Not later than 30
15 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and
16 every 30 days thereafter until each outstanding
17 mandate is published in the Federal Register, the
18 Secretary of Transportation shall publish on a pub-
19 licly available website of the Department of Trans-
20 portation an update regarding the status of each
21 such mandate in accordance with subsection (c).

22 (2) NOTIFICATION OF CONGRESS.—On publica-
23 tion of a final rule in the Federal Register for an
24 outstanding mandate, the Secretary shall submit to
25 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

1 and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the
2 House of Representatives and the Committee on
3 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
4 ate a notification of such publication.

5 (c) CONTENTS.—An update published or a notifica-
6 tion submitted under subsection (b)(1) shall contain, as
7 applicable—

8 (1) with respect to information relating to the
9 Administration—

10 (A) a description of the work plan for each
11 outstanding mandate;

12 (B) an updated rulemaking timeline for
13 each outstanding mandate;

14 (C) the staff allocations with respect to
15 each outstanding mandate;

16 (D) any resource constraints affecting the
17 rulemaking process for each outstanding man-
18 date;

19 (E) any other details associated with the
20 development of each outstanding mandate that
21 affect the progress of the rulemaking process
22 with respect to that outstanding mandate; and

23 (F) a description of all rulemakings re-
24 garding gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facili-

1 ties published in the Federal Register that are
2 not identified under subsection (b)(2); and
3 (2) with respect to information relating to the
4 Office of the Secretary—

5 (A) the date that the outstanding mandate
6 was submitted to the Office of the Secretary for
7 review;

8 (B) the reason that the outstanding man-
9 date is under review beyond 45 days;

10 (C) the staff allocations within the Office
11 of the Secretary with respect to each out-
12 standing mandate;

13 (D) any resource constraints affecting re-
14 view of the outstanding mandate;

15 (E) an estimated timeline of when review
16 of the outstanding mandate will be complete, as
17 of the date of the update;

18 (F) if applicable, the date that the out-
19 standing mandate was returned to the Adminis-
20 tration for revision and the anticipated date for
21 resubmission to the Office of the Secretary;

22 (G) the date that the outstanding mandate
23 was submitted to the Office of Management and
24 Budget for review; and

1 (H) a statement of whether the out-
2 standing mandate remains under review by the
3 Office of Management and Budget.

4 **SEC. 6. INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 60102 of title 49, United
6 States Code, is amended by striking subsection (l) and in-
7 serting the following:

8 “(l) UPDATING STANDARDS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than
10 once every 4 years, or if an interested person other-
11 wise petitions in accordance with section 190.331 of
12 title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor
13 regulation), the Secretary shall review, and update
14 as necessary, incorporated industry standards that
15 have been adopted, either partially or in full, as part
16 of the Federal pipeline safety regulatory program
17 under this chapter that are modified and published
18 by a standards development organization, as such
19 term is defined in section 2(a) of the National Coop-
20 erative Research and Production Act of 1993 (15
21 U.S.C. 4301(a)).

22 “(2) DISCRETION IN ADOPTING INDUSTRY
23 STANDARDS.—The Secretary may decline to adopt
24 an industry standard that is inconsistent with appli-
25 cable law or otherwise impracticable, including in

1 circumstances where the use of an industry standard
2 would not serve the needs of the Federal pipeline
3 safety regulatory program, would impose undue bur-
4 dens, or if the Secretary determines the standard
5 was improperly influenced by foreign entities.

6 “(3) LIST OF INDUSTRY STANDARDS.—The
7 Secretary shall—

8 “(A) maintain a publicly available list of
9 all industry standards considered for adoption
10 under this chapter and the agency’s adjudica-
11 tion of each considered standard;

12 “(B) include the reasoning for not adopt-
13 ing an industry standard, whether in full or in
14 part, on the list under subparagraph (A); and

15 “(C) submit to the Committee on Trans-
16 portation and Infrastructure and the Com-
17 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House
18 of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
19 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
20 ate such list not later than—

21 “(i) 30 days after completion of such
22 list; and

23 “(ii) 30 days after the date of any
24 subsequent revisions to such list.

1 “(4) PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY.—Any industry
2 standards incorporated by reference, or portions
3 thereof, shall be made available by the entity that
4 developed such standards free of charge for viewing
5 on a publicly available website.”.

6 (b) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
8 of the United States shall—

9 (1) conduct a review to determine compliance
10 with section 60102(l)(4) of title 49, United States
11 Code; and

12 (2) submit to the Committee on Transportation
13 and Infrastructure and the Committee on Energy
14 and Commerce of the House of Representatives and
15 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
16 portation of the Senate a report on the review con-
17 ducted under paragraph (1).

18 **SEC. 7. INSPECTION ACTIVITY REPORTING.**

19 (a) INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES.—
20 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this
21 Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall establish, and
22 make available to the public in an electronically accessible
23 format, a report containing the inspection and enforce-
24 ment priorities of the Office of Pipeline Safety of the Pipe-
25 line and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration for

1 fiscal years 2026 through 2029. Such report shall include
2 a description of—

3 (1) how the Administrator will use the priorities
4 to guide the inspection program of such Office;

5 (2) how the inspection and enforcement prior-
6 ities will improve pipeline safety; and

7 (3) how the Administrator communicates and
8 coordinates the implementation of inspection and en-
9 forcement priorities with regional offices and State
10 inspectors operating under delegated authority.

11 (b) NOTICE AND COMMENT.—Prior to publication of
12 the inspection and enforcement priorities under subsection
13 (a), the Administrator shall solicit through notice in the
14 Federal Register public comment on such priorities.

15 (c) SUMMARY OF PIPELINE INSPECTIONS.—Not later
16 than June 1 of each year beginning with the year after
17 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
18 make available to the public in an electronically accessible
19 format a summary of Federal and State pipeline inspec-
20 tions conducted under direct or delegated authority of title
21 49, United States Code, during the previous calendar year,
22 to include—

23 (1) the date of the inspection;

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

25 (3) the pipeline system or segment inspected;

1 (4) the region or regions of the Pipeline and
2 Hazardous Materials Safety Administration in which
3 the inspected system or segment operates;

4 (5) the State or States in which the inspected
5 system or segment operates; and

6 (6) any violations, or proposed violations, found
7 as a result of pipeline inspections.

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

9 (a) COMMITTEE REPORTS ON PROPOSED STAND-
10 ARDS.—Section 60115(c)(1) of title 49, United States
11 Code, is amended—

12 (1) in subparagraph (A) by inserting “, if appli-
13 cable” after “each proposed standard”; and

14 (2) in subparagraph (B) by inserting “, if appli-
15 cable” after “each proposed standard”.

16 (b) REPORT.—Section 60115(c)(2) of title 49, United
17 States Code, is amended by inserting “and provide written
18 notification of such reasons to the Committee on Trans-
19 portation and Infrastructure and the Committee on En-
20 ergy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and
21 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
22 of the Senate at the time a final rulemaking relating to
23 the standard is issued” after “publish the reasons”.

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

4 **SEC. 9. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PHMSA ENGAGEMENT**
5 **PRIOR TO RULEMAKING ACTIVITIES.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that—

7 (1) the Secretary of Transportation should en-
8 gage with pipeline stakeholder groups, including
9 State pipeline safety programs with an approved cer-
10 tification under section 60105 of title 49, United
11 States Code, and Tribal, State, and local govern-
12 ments and members of the public during predrafting
13 stages of rulemaking activities and use, to the great-
14 est extent practicable, properly docketed ex parte
15 discussions during rulemaking activities in order
16 to—

17 (A) inform the work of the Secretary;

18 (B) assist the Administrator of the Pipe-
19 line and Hazardous Materials Safety Adminis-
20 tration in developing the scope of a rule; and

21 (C) reduce the timeline for issuance of pro-
22 posed and final rules; and

23 (2) when it would reduce the time required for
24 the Secretary to adjudicate public comments, the
25 Administrator should publicly provide information

1 describing the rationale behind a regulatory decision
2 included in proposed regulations in order to better
3 allow for the public to provide clear and informed
4 comments on such regulations.

5 **SEC. 10. OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-
8 tation shall rename the Community Liaison Services with-
9 in the Office of Pipeline Safety of the Pipeline and Haz-
10 ardous Materials Safety Administration as the Office of
11 Public Engagement (hereinafter in this section referred to
12 as the “Office”).

13 (b) DUTIES.—The duties of the Office are to—

14 (1) proactively engage with pipeline stake-
15 holders, including the public, pipeline operators,
16 public safety organizations, and State, local, and
17 Tribal government officials, to raise awareness of
18 pipeline safety practices;

19 (2) promote the adoption and increased use of
20 safety programs and activities;

21 (3) inform the public of pipeline safety regula-
22 tions and best practices; and

23 (4) assist the public with inquiries regarding
24 pipeline safety.

1 (c) PUBLIC ACCESS.—The Office shall ensure that
2 activities carried out by the Office and information prod-
3 ucts developed by the Office are accessible to the public.

4 (d) COMMUNITY LIAISONS.—The Office shall incor-
5 porate positions known as “community liaisons” under the
6 Community Liaison Services.

7 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
9 to Congress a report on the implementation of this section.

10 **SEC. 11. CLASS LOCATION CHANGES.**

11 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
12 of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall prescribe
13 a final rule amending the safety standards for class loca-
14 tion changes in parts 191 and 192 of title 49, Code of
15 Federal Regulations, based on the notice of proposed rule-
16 making published by the Pipeline and Hazardous Mate-
17 rials Safety Administration on October 14, 2020, titled
18 “Pipeline Safety: Class Location Change Requirements”
19 (85 Fed. Reg. 65142), including consideration of all docu-
20 ments in Docket No. PHMSA–2017–0151.

21 **SEC. 12. PIPELINE OPERATING STATUS.**

22 Section 60143(b) of title 49, United States Code, is
23 amended—

24 (1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
25 following:

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of enactment of the PIPES Act of
3 2025, the Secretary shall issue a notice of proposed
4 rulemaking prescribing the applicability of the pipe-
5 line safety requirements to idled natural gas or other
6 gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines.”;
7 and

8 (2) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the
9 following:

10 “(E) CONSIDERATION.—In promulgating
11 regulations under this section, the Secretary
12 shall consider the adoption of industry con-
13 sensus standards.”.

14 **SEC. 13. RIGHTS-OF-WAY MANAGEMENT.**

15 Section 60108(a) of title 49, United States Code, is
16 amended by adding at the end the following:

17 “(4) ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF MAINTAINING
18 RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the review con-
20 ducted under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall
21 allow for an alternative method of maintaining
22 rights-of-way for pipelines and other pipeline facili-
23 ties under a voluntary program carried out by the
24 operator if such alternative method achieves a level

1 of safety at least equal to the level of safety required
2 by regulations issued under this chapter.

3 “(B) PURPOSE.—An operator considering im-
4 plementing an alternative method described under
5 subparagraph (A) may consider incorporating into
6 the plan for implementing such method 1 or more
7 conservation practices, including—

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

10 “(ii) the development of habitat and forage
11 for pollinators and other wildlife through seed-
12 ing or planting of diverse native forbs and
13 grasses;

14 “(iii) practices relating to maintenance
15 strategies that promote early successional vege-
16 tation or limit disturbance during periods of
17 highest use by target pollinator species and
18 other wildlife on pipeline or facilities rights-of-
19 way, including—

20 “(I) increasing mowing height;

21 “(II) reducing mowing frequency; and

22 “(III) refraining from mowing mon-
23 arch and other pollinator habitat during
24 periods in which monarchs or other polli-
25 nators are present;

1 “(iv) an integrated vegetation management
2 plan that may include approaches such as me-
3 chanical tree and brush removal and targeted
4 and judicious use of herbicides and mowing to
5 address incompatible or undesirable vegetation
6 while promoting compatible and beneficial vege-
7 tation on pipeline and facilities rights-of-way;

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

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

15 “(vii) obtaining expert training or assist-
16 ance on wildlife and pollinator-friendly prac-
17 tices, including—

18 “(I) native plant identification;

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

21 “(III) land management practices;

22 and

23 “(IV) integrated vegetation manage-
24 ment.

1 “(C) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section
2 exempts an operator from compliance with the appli-
3 cable requirements under this chapter or any appli-
4 cable regulations promulgated under this chapter.

5 “(D) CONSULTATION.—

6 “(i) AVAILABLE GUIDANCE.—In developing
7 such alternative methods, an operator shall con-
8 sult any available guidance issued by—

9 “(I) the Secretary; or

10 “(II) an applicable State agency car-
11 rying out compliance activities on behalf of
12 the Secretary in accordance with section
13 60105.

14 “(ii) LEADING INDUSTRY PRACTICES.—In
15 the absence of the guidance described in clause
16 (i), an operator may consult leading industry
17 practices and guidance to develop and imple-
18 ment such alternative methods.”.

19 **SEC. 14. STUDY ON COMPOSITE MATERIALS FOR PIPE-**
20 **LINES.**

21 (a) STUDY ON USE OF COMPOSITE MATERIALS.—
22 Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of
23 this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall complete
24 a study assessing the potential and existing use of pipe-

1 lines constructed with composite materials to safely trans-
2 port hydrogen and hydrogen blended with natural gas.

3 (b) STUDY CONSIDERATIONS.—In completing the
4 study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider—

5 (1) any commercially available composite pipe-
6 line materials;

7 (2) any completed or ongoing tests and data re-
8 garding composite pipeline materials available to the
9 Secretary or other Federal agencies; and

10 (3) any recommended standards, including con-
11 sensus standards, and Federal agency authorizations
12 relating to use of composite pipeline materials.

13 (c) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—To ensure adequate
14 public participation in completing the study under sub-
15 section (a), the Secretary shall—

16 (1) hold a public meeting with interested stake-
17 holders, including the affected industries, interest
18 groups, and other individuals with relevant expertise;

19 (2) release a draft version of the study for pub-
20 lic comment for a period of not less than 60 days;
21 and

22 (3) address any substantive comments sub-
23 mitted by the public during the public comment pe-
24 riod under paragraph (2) in preparing the final
25 study.

1 (d) PUBLIC MEETING.—Not later than 60 days after
2 the closing of the public comment period under subsection
3 (c)(2), the Secretary shall hold a public meeting to present
4 the findings of the study under this section and any re-
5 sponses to public comments received under such sub-
6 section.

7 (e) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 18 months after
8 the meeting described in subsection (d), the Secretary
9 shall issue a rulemaking that includes a Notice of Pro-
10 posed Rulemaking to allow for the use of composite mate-
11 rials for pipeline transportation of hydrogen and hydrogen
12 blended with natural gas.

13 **SEC. 15. COMPETITIVE ACADEMIC AGREEMENT PROGRAM.**

14 (a) FEDERAL SHARE.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Competi-
16 tive Academic Agreement Program pursuant to sec-
17 tion 60117(l) of title 49, United States Code, the
18 Secretary of Transportation may allow for a 100-
19 percent Federal share of financial assistance for a
20 project carried out by small and mid-sized institu-
21 tions.

22 (2) WRITTEN REQUEST REQUIRED.—The Sec-
23 retary may only allow the use of a 100-percent Fed-
24 eral share under paragraph (1) if the applicable in-
25 stitution has provided a written request to the Sec-

1 retary prior to the award of Federal assistance
2 under such Program.

3 (3) SMALL AND MID-SIZED INSTITUTIONS DE-
4 FINED.—In this subsection, the term “small and
5 mid-sized institutions” means academic institutions
6 eligible for a grant under the Competitive Academic
7 Agreement Program with a current total enrollment
8 of 17,500 students or less, including graduate and
9 undergraduate as well as full- and part-time stu-
10 dents.

11 (b) REPORT.—Following any award of grants under
12 the Competitive Academic Agreement Program, the Sec-
13 retary shall provide to Congress a written report detail-
14 ing—

15 (1) the recipients of such grants; and

16 (2) any grantees that were provided a 100-per-
17 cent Federal share under this section.

18 **SEC. 16. GEOHAZARD MITIGATION STUDY.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
21 of the United States shall prepare a report containing—

22 (1) the results of a study that—

23 (A) evaluates Federal and State, as appli-
24 cable, requirements for gas, hazardous liquid,
25 and carbon dioxide pipeline facility design,

1 siting, construction, operation and maintenance,
2 and integrity management relating to
3 geohazards, including seismicity, land subsid-
4 ence, landslides, slope instability, frost heave,
5 soil settlement, erosion, river scour, washouts,
6 floods, unstable soil, water currents, hurricanes,
7 dynamic geologic conditions, tsunamis, tor-
8 nados, wildfires, floods, ice storms, or other
9 hazards that may cause a pipeline to move or
10 be affected by abnormal external loads;

11 (B) evaluates any industry consensus
12 standards or best practices related to the re-
13 quirements described in subparagraph (A);

14 (C) evaluates the implementation by opera-
15 tors of Federal and State regulations related to
16 geohazards and application of recommendations
17 included in the Advisory Bulletin of the Pipeline
18 and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
19 titled “Pipeline Safety: Potential for Damage to
20 Pipeline Facilities Caused by Earth Movement
21 and Other Geological Hazards”, issued on May
22 2, 2019 (PHMSA–2019–0087);

23 (D) identifies any discrepancies in the re-
24 quirements described in subparagraph (A) and
25 advisories, industry consensus standards, or

1 best practices for operators of gas, hazardous
2 liquid, and carbon dioxide pipeline facilities;
3 and

4 (E) identifies any areas relating to
5 geohazards not addressed under subparagraphs
6 (A) through (D); and

7 (2) any recommendations of the Government
8 Accountability Office based on the results of the
9 study under paragraph (1).

10 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Upon completion of the
11 report under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall
12 submit to the Secretary of Transportation, the Committee
13 on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee
14 on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representa-
15 tives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
16 Transportation of the Senate the report.

17 **SEC. 17. SPECIAL PERMIT PROGRAM.**

18 (a) COMPLIANCE AND WAIVERS.—Section
19 60118(c)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended
20 by adding at the end the following:

21 “(C) LIMITATION ON TERMS.—The Sec-
22 retary shall impose no terms on a waiver under
23 this paragraph that do not apply to known
24 pipeline safety risks applicable to the standard
25 being waived under subparagraph (A).

1 “(D) PUBLICATION.—Upon completion of
2 the application requirements under section
3 190.341 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-
4 tions, or successor regulations, the Secretary
5 shall publish notice of the application in the
6 Federal Register.

7 “(E) REVIEW OF APPLICATION.—The Sec-
8 retary shall complete a review of each such ap-
9 plication not later than 18 months after pub-
10 lishing a notice in the Federal Register de-
11 scribed in subparagraph (D) with respect to the
12 application.”.

13 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
15 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
16 Transportation shall submit to the Committee on
17 Transportation and Infrastructure and Committee
18 on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
19 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce,
20 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
21 on the implementation by the Administrator of the
22 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Adminis-
23 tration of the amendment made by subsection (a).

24 (2) CONTENTS.—The report required under
25 paragraph (1) shall include—

1 (A) a listing of each special permit applica-
2 tion applied for under section 60118(c)(1) of
3 title 49, United States Code;

4 (B) a brief summary of the purpose of
5 each such special permit;

6 (C) the date on which each such applica-
7 tion was received;

8 (D) the date on which each such applica-
9 tion was completed or, in the absence of com-
10 pletion, the status of the application;

11 (E) the date on which the Secretary issued
12 a determination on the application; and

13 (F) the explanation of the Secretary for
14 any decision made outside the review period
15 identified in section 60118(c)(1)(E) of title 49,
16 United States Code, if applicable.

17 (c) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
18 submission of the report under subsection (b), the Comp-
19 troller General of the United States shall submit to the
20 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the
21 Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of
22 Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
23 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report assess-
24 ing the Secretary's implementation of, and compliance

1 with, subparagraphs (C) through (E) of section
2 60118(c)(1) of title 49, United States Code.

3 **SEC. 18. EXCAVATION DAMAGE PREVENTION.**

4 (a) GRANTS TO STATES.—Section 6106 of title 49,
5 United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b) by inserting “adoption or
7 progress toward adoption of the leading practices
8 listed in subsection (b) and” before “legislative and
9 regulatory”;

10 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
11 subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

12 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(b) LEADING PRACTICES.—A State one-call pro-
15 gram shall implement leading practices that—

16 “(1) identify the size and scope of a one-call
17 ticket for standard locate requests, including process
18 exceptions for special large project tickets;

19 “(2) restrict the longevity of a one-call ticket
20 for standard locate requests, which may include
21 process exceptions for special large project tickets;

22 “(3) examine and limit exemptions to one-call
23 programs to prevent common excavation damage in-
24 cidents, including—

1 “(A) excavation or demolition performed
2 by the owner of a single-family residential prop-
3 erty;

4 “(B) any excavation of 18 inches or less
5 when maintenance activities are performed;

6 “(C) repairing, connecting, adjusting, or
7 conducting routine maintenance of a private or
8 public underground utility facility; and

9 “(D) for municipalities, public works orga-
10 nizations, and State departments of transpor-
11 tation for road maintenance;

12 “(4) specify tolerance zone horizontal dimen-
13 sions and requirements for hand-dig, hydro, vacuum
14 excavation, and other nonintrusive methods;

15 “(5) specify emergency excavation notification
16 requirements, including defining emergency exca-
17 vation and identifying the notification requirements
18 for an emergency excavation;

19 “(6) specify the responsibilities of the exca-
20 vator, including the reporting of damages due to ex-
21 cavation activities;

22 “(7) define who is an excavator and what is
23 considered excavation;

1 “(8) require the use of white lining or electronic
2 white lining, allowing for exceptions for special
3 large-project tickets;

4 “(9) require a positive response, such as the
5 utility, municipality, or other entity placing the
6 marks positively responds to the notification center
7 and the excavator checks for a positive response be-
8 fore beginning excavation;

9 “(10) require newly installed underground fa-
10 cilities to be locatable;

11 “(11) require the marking of lines and laterals,
12 including sewer lines and laterals;

13 “(12) require training programs and require-
14 ments for third-party excavators performing exca-
15 vation activities that are not subject to pipeline con-
16 struction requirements under part 192 or part 195
17 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations;

18 “(13) require training for locate professionals;
19 and

20 “(14) require the use of commercially available
21 technologies to locate underground facilities, such as
22 geographic information systems and enhanced posi-
23 tive response.

24 “(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

1 “(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 3 years
2 after the implementation of subsection (b), the Sec-
3 retary shall submit to the Committee on Transpor-
4 tation and Infrastructure and the Committee on En-
5 ergy and Commerce of the House of Representatives
6 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
7 Transportation of the Senate a report detailing—

8 “(A) the implementation of the leading
9 practices described in such subsection;

10 “(B) recommendations to increase the
11 adoption of such leading practices and rec-
12 ommendations for the reduction of excavation
13 damage incidents; and

14 “(C) the number of underground facility
15 damages per 1,000 one-call tickets in each
16 State for the reporting year.

17 “(2) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—Not later than
18 once every 2 years after the submittal of the report
19 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to
20 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
21 and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the
22 House of Representatives and the Committee on
23 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
24 ate a report detailing—

1 “(A) the implementation of the leading
2 practices described in subsection (b);

3 “(B) recommendations to increase the
4 adoption of such leading practices and rec-
5 ommendations for the reduction of excavation
6 damage incidents; and

7 “(C) the number of underground facility
8 damages per 1,000 one-call tickets in each state
9 for each year covered by the report.”; and
10 (4) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(f) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall
12 make a grant award to a State by the Secretary pursuant
13 to section 60107 or section 60134 for a State program
14 certified under section 60105 or section 60106 contingent
15 on compliance by the State with all leading practices de-
16 scribed in subsection (b).”.

17 (b) STATE DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—Sec-
18 tion 60134(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amend-
19 ed—

20 (1) by striking “In making grants” and insert-
21 ing the following:

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In making grants”; and

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

24 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In evaluating criteria
25 for determining the effectiveness of the damage pre-

1 vention program of a State, the Secretary shall con-
2 sider whether the State has, at a minimum—

3 “(A) effective, active, and consistent en-
4 forcement of State one-call laws (including con-
5 sistency in the application of enforcement re-
6 sources, fines, and penalties to all relevant
7 stakeholders, such as operators, locators, and
8 excavators);

9 “(B) data reporting requirements such as
10 those—

11 “(i) to the local one-call center for ex-
12 cavation damage events on pipelines and
13 other underground facilities, that are not
14 privately owned, including (if available at
15 the time of reporting)—

16 “(I) information about the nature
17 of the incident, including the facility
18 damaged and the apparent cause of
19 such damage (with supporting docu-
20 mentation);

21 “(II) the organizations or entities
22 involved;

23 “(III) the impact to public safe-
24 ty, utility operations, and customer
25 service; and

1 “(IV) the impact to the environ-
2 ment; and

3 “(ii) to a nationally focused nonprofit
4 organization specifically established for the
5 purpose of reducing construction-related
6 damages to underground facilities, of dam-
7 ages and near-miss events to underground
8 facilities from excavation damages, includ-
9 ing potential contributing factors, facility
10 damaged, type of excavator, work per-
11 formed, equipment type, and State;

12 “(C) data reporting requirements, to a
13 nonprofit organization specifically established
14 for the purpose of reducing construction-related
15 damage to underground facilities, of damage
16 and near-miss events to underground facilities
17 from excavation damage, including root cause,
18 facility damaged, type of excavator, work per-
19 formed, equipment type, and State; and

20 “(D) performance measures to determine
21 the effectiveness of excavation damage preven-
22 tion efforts.”.

23 **SEC. 19. INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT STUDY.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the
25 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-

1 tation shall enter into an agreement with the National
2 Academies under which the National Academies shall con-
3 duct a study of the effectiveness of integrity management
4 regulations applicable to natural gas and hazardous liquid
5 pipeline facilities.

6 (b) DATA SOURCES.—In carrying out the study
7 under subsection (a), the National Academies shall—

8 (1) use publicly available data from the Pipeline
9 and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration,
10 State pipeline regulatory agencies, and other public
11 sources; and

12 (2) consult with pipeline stakeholders in the de-
13 velopment of findings under the study, including
14 State and Federal regulators, pipeline operators,
15 Tribal and local governments, public safety organiza-
16 tions, and environmental organizations.

17 (c) ELEMENTS.—The study described under sub-
18 section (a) shall include—

19 (1) a review of previous assessments of integrity
20 management program implementation produced by
21 or for the Secretary or the National Transportation
22 Safety Board;

23 (2) a review of the implementation and enforce-
24 ment by the Secretary of integrity management reg-
25 ulations and any modifications of the regulations

1 issued by the Secretary pursuant to section 60109 of
2 title 49, United States Code;

3 (3) a trend analysis and assessment of pipeline
4 safety incidents, accidents, and repairs for high con-
5 sequence and non-high consequence areas, including
6 comparing—

7 (A) the frequency of such incidents, acci-
8 dents, and repairs before and after the imple-
9 mentation of the Federal integrity management
10 requirements described in subsection (a); and

11 (B) the frequency of such incidents, acci-
12 dents, and repairs during the period of time
13 such integrity management requirements have
14 been in effect;

15 (4) development of metrics to gauge the effec-
16 tiveness of the implementation and enforcement of
17 such integrity management regulations;

18 (5) an assessment of how integrity management
19 informs operator activities, including planning and
20 completion of repairs, and whether the implementa-
21 tion of integrity management regulations by opera-
22 tors of pipeline facilities has had a demonstrable ef-
23 fect on improving gas and hazardous liquid pipeline
24 safety; and

1 (6) identification of areas where pipeline safety
2 has improved and where it has not improved due to
3 integrity management.

4 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall—

5 (1) require the National Academies to submit to
6 the Secretary a report on the results of the study
7 under subsection (a); and

8 (2) not later than 2 years after the date of en-
9 actment of this Act, submit to the Committee on
10 Transportation and Infrastructure and the Com-
11 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of
12 Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
13 Science, and Transportation of the Senate such re-
14 port.

15 **SEC. 20. HYDROGEN STUDY.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
17 United States shall conduct a study on existing natural
18 gas pipeline systems that, as a result of hydrogen-natural
19 gas blending, contain a percentage of hydrogen that is
20 greater than 5 percent by volume to identify the changes
21 that operators have implemented, including—

22 (1) modifications or alternatives to—

23 (A) odorants and leak-detection methods;

24 (B) pipeline materials; and

25 (C) operational standards; and

1 (2) modifications to pipeline infrastructure.

2 (b) ADDITIONAL CONTENTS.—The study under sub-
3 section (a) shall include—

4 (1) an identification of any technical challenges
5 with repurposing existing natural gas infrastructure
6 to allow such infrastructure to be used for hydrogen-
7 natural gas blended service; and

8 (2) an examination of hydrogen-natural gas
9 blended pipeline systems currently operating, includ-
10 ing in the United States, the United Kingdom, Can-
11 ada, Europe, Australia, and Hong Kong.

12 (c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study
13 under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall con-
14 sider—

15 (1) any changes that domestic and international
16 operators of natural gas pipeline systems have im-
17 plemented to the processes, pipeline materials, me-
18 tering, and operational standards used by such oper-
19 ators to account for the operation and integrity of
20 natural gas pipeline systems that use a hydrogen
21 content at variable percentages above 5 percent by
22 volume; and

23 (2) how such operators have taken into account
24 the effects of hydrogen-natural gas blending on dif-
25 ferent types of—

1 (A) natural gas pipeline systems materials,
2 including cast iron, steel, composite pipe, and
3 plastic pipe; and

4 (B) components of such systems, including
5 valves and meters.

6 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
7 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
8 submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
9 structure and the Committee on Energy and Commerce
10 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
11 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a
12 report on the results of the study conducted under sub-
13 section (a).

14 (e) RULEMAKING.—The results of the study under
15 subsection (a) should inform the rulemaking efforts of the
16 Secretary relating to hydrogen-natural gas blending. The
17 Secretary may determine that rulemaking efforts related
18 to hydrogen should be advanced before completion of the
19 study under subsection (a).

20 (f) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
21 section shall be construed to prohibit or otherwise limit
22 the authority of the Secretary to issue regulations relating
23 to hydrogen prior to the submission of the report under
24 subsection (d).

1 **SEC. 21. PENALTY FOR CAUSING A DEFECT IN OR DIS-**
2 **RUPTING OPERATION OF PIPELINE INFRA-**
3 **STRUCTURE.**

4 Section 60123 of title 49, United States Code, is
5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(e) PENALTY FOR CAUSING A DEFECT IN OR DIS-
7 RUPTING OPERATION OF PIPELINE INFRASTRUCTURE.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A person shall be fined
9 under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 10
10 years, or both, if the person knowingly and will-
11 fully—

12 “(A) causes a defect in a pipe, pump, com-
13 pressor, or valve in the possession of a pipeline
14 operator to be used in construction of any pipe-
15 line facility described in subsection (b) that
16 would affect the integrity or safe operation of
17 any such facility; or

18 “(B) disrupts the operation of any pipeline
19 facility described in subsection (b) by causing
20 or undertaking the unauthorized or unplanned
21 turning or manipulation of a valve.

22 “(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
23 ‘in the possession of a pipeline operator’ means, with
24 respect to a pipe, pump, compressor, or valve, that
25 such pipe, pump, compressor, or valve is—

1 “(A) in transit to a pipeline component
2 staging site or construction site;

3 “(B) at a pipeline component staging site;

4 or

5 “(C) at a construction site.”.

6 **SEC. 22. CIVIL PENALTIES.**

7 Section 60122(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code,
8 is amended by striking “\$2,000,000” and inserting
9 “\$3,412,000”.

10 **SEC. 23. LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS REGULATORY COORDI-**
11 **NATION.**

12 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The Secretary
13 of Transportation shall establish and convene a Liquefied
14 Natural Gas Regulatory Safety Working Group (in this
15 section referred to as the “Working Group”) through the
16 National Center of Excellence for Liquefied Natural Gas
17 Safety to clarify the authority of Federal agencies in the
18 authorizing and oversight of LNG facilities, other than
19 peak shaving facilities, and improve coordination of the
20 authority of such agencies.

21 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall
23 consist of certain representatives of the Federal gov-
24 ernment, as such term is defined in clauses (i)
25 through (v) of section 111(a)(3)(F) of the PIPES

1 Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–260), as designated
2 by the Secretary of Transportation or appropriate
3 Federal agency leadership.

4 (2) CHAIR.—The Administrator of the Pipeline
5 and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration or a
6 designee of the Administrator shall serve as chair of
7 the Working Group, unless an alternate member of
8 the working group is selected by unanimous consent
9 of the Working Group.

10 (3) RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHAIR.—The Chair
11 of the Working Group shall establish an agenda and
12 schedule for the Working Group to accomplish the
13 objectives described in subsection (c).

14 (c) EVALUATION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall
16 evaluate individual Federal agency authorities per-
17 taining to the siting and design, construction, oper-
18 ation and maintenance, and operational and process
19 safety regulations of LNG facilities.

20 (2) NEGOTIATION.—The Working Group shall
21 negotiate Federal agency agreements pursuant to
22 subsection (d) to establish procedures for—

23 (A) the application of the respective au-
24 thorities of each Federal agency in ensuring

1 safety in a manner to ensure effective regula-
2 tion of LNG facilities in the public interest;

3 (B) resolving conflicts concerning overlap-
4 ping jurisdiction among the Federal agencies;
5 and

6 (C) avoiding, to the extent possible and if
7 appropriate, conflicting or duplicative regula-
8 tion, inspection protocols, and reporting obliga-
9 tions.

10 (d) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND INTER-
11 AGENCY AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 2 years after the
12 date of enactment of this Act, the agencies represented
13 on the Working Group shall enter into interagency agree-
14 ments or memorandums of understanding regarding best
15 practices and individual agency safety oversight enforce-
16 ment responsibilities regarding LNG facilities, other than
17 peak shaving facilities.

18 (e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
19 after entering into interagency agency agreements or
20 memorandum of understanding under subsection (d), the
21 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transpor-
22 tation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Energy
23 and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the
24 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
25 the Senate a report on the memorandum of understanding

1 or interagency agreements and how such memorandum or
2 agreements have contributed to improved safety and en-
3 forcement oversight coordination of LNG facilities.

4 (f) LNG DEFINED.—In this section, the term
5 “LNG” means liquefied natural gas.

6 **SEC. 24. PIPELINE SAFETY VOLUNTARY INFORMATION-**
7 **SHARING SYSTEM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 601 of title 49, United
9 States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the
10 following:

11 **“§ 60145. Voluntary information-sharing system**

12 **“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—**

13 **“(1) IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary shall estab-
14 lish a confidential voluntary information-sharing sys-
15 tem (referred to in this section as ‘VIS’) to encour-
16 age the sharing of pipeline safety data and informa-
17 tion in a non-punitive context in order to improve
18 the safety of gas, carbon dioxide, and hazardous liq-
19 uid gathering, transmission, and distribution pipe-
20 lines and facilities, including storage facilities.

21 **“(2) PURPOSE.—**The purpose of the VIS is to
22 establish a comprehensive, systematic, and inte-
23 grated structure to gather, evaluate, and quantify
24 critical pipeline safety data and information and to
25 share recommended remediation measures and les-

1 sons learned across the pipeline industry in an effort
2 to improve pipeline safety, including damage preven-
3 tion efforts, while protecting participant confiden-
4 tiality.

5 “(3) IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT.—In
6 establishing the VIS under this section, the Sec-
7 retary shall implement and manage such VIS based
8 on the Pipeline Safety Voluntary Information-Shar-
9 ing System Recommendation Report prepared pur-
10 suant to section 10 of the Protecting Our Infra-
11 structure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of
12 2016 (49 U.S.C. 60108 note).

13 “(4) INAPPLICABILITY OF FACa.—The VIS
14 shall not be considered a Federal advisory committee
15 and shall not be subject to the requirements of chap-
16 ter 10 of title 5.

17 “(b) GOVERNANCE.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A Governing Board, a Pro-
19 gram Manager, a Third-Party Information Manager,
20 and Issue Analysis Teams shall govern the VIS.

21 “(2) GOVERNING BOARD.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
23 days after the date of enactment of this section,
24 the Administrator of the Pipeline and Haz-
25 ardous Materials Safety Administration shall

1 appoint a Governing Board after consulting
2 with public and private pipeline safety stake-
3 holders.

4 “(B) COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD.—The
5 Governing Board shall be comprised of at least
6 9 members and shall represent a balanced
7 cross-section of pipeline safety stakeholders
8 with pipeline safety knowledge or experience as
9 follows:

10 “(i) At least 3 individuals shall be se-
11 lected from departments, agencies, instru-
12 mentalities of the Federal Government,
13 Territories or Tribal governments, State
14 governments, or local governments, 1 of
15 which shall be the Administrator.

16 “(ii) At least 3 individuals shall be se-
17 lected from the gas, carbon dioxide, or haz-
18 ardous liquid industries, such as operators,
19 trade associations, inspection technology,
20 coating, and cathodic protection vendors,
21 and pipeline inspection organizations.

22 “(iii) At least 3 individuals shall be
23 selected from public safety advocate orga-
24 nizations, such as pipeline safety and envi-
25 ronmental advocacy groups, public safety-

1 focused research institutions, or labor and
2 worker safety representatives.

3 “(C) BOARD TERMS.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Each member of
5 the Governing Board shall be appointed for
6 a term of 3 years, with the terms of 3 of
7 the members expiring each year.

8 “(ii) TERM EXPIRATION.—The term
9 of at least 1 member of each of the 3
10 stakeholder groups established in subpara-
11 graph (B) shall expire each year.

12 “(iii) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—In the
13 initial appointment of members, terms of
14 1, 2, and 3 years shall be established to
15 allow the terms of 3 members to expire
16 thereafter each year.

17 “(iv) REAPPOINTMENT.—Each mem-
18 ber may be reappointed for consecutive 3-
19 year terms.

20 “(D) CO-CHAIRS.—

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

23 “(I) the Administrator;

24 “(II) a representative of the
25 stakeholder group described in sub-

1 paragraph (B)(ii), who shall be ap-
2 pointed with advice and consent of the
3 Governing Board; and

4 “(III) a representative of the
5 stakeholder group described in sub-
6 paragraph (B)(iii), who shall be ap-
7 pointed with advice and consent of the
8 Governing Board.

9 “(ii) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The co-
10 chairs of the Governing Board shall be
11 jointly responsible for organizing and con-
12 ducting meetings of the Governing Board.

13 “(E) AUTHORITY.—The Governing Board
14 shall make decisions by a super-majority of two-
15 thirds plus 1 of the Governing Board members
16 and shall have the authority to—

17 “(i) govern and provide strategic over-
18 sight to the VIS;

19 “(ii) develop governance documents,
20 including a Governing Board charter that
21 is made available to the public, and that
22 describes the scope of the authority and
23 objectives of the Board;

24 “(iii) select a Third-Party Data Man-
25 ager described in paragraph (4) with ex-

1 pertise in data protection, aggregation, and
2 analytics and geographic information sys-
3 tems;

4 “(iv) approve the criteria and proce-
5 dures governing how the Third-Party Data
6 Manager described in paragraph (4) will
7 receive and accept pipeline safety data and
8 information and who will have the author-
9 ity to view VIS data;

10 “(v) establish and appoint members to
11 Issue Analysis Teams described in para-
12 graph (5) that consist of technical and
13 subject matter experts;

14 “(vi) collaborate with Issue Analysis
15 Teams described in paragraph (5) to iden-
16 tify the issues and topics to be analyzed;

17 “(vii) collaborate with Issue Analysis
18 Teams described in paragraph (5) to speci-
19 fy the type of de-identified pipeline safety
20 data and information that Issue Analysis
21 Teams need in order to analyze the issues
22 identified under clause (vi) and topics;

23 “(viii) determine the information to be
24 disseminated;

1 “(ix) determine the reports to be dis-
2 seminated;

3 “(x) at least once per year, issue a re-
4 port to the public on VIS processes, mem-
5 bership of the Governing Board, issues or
6 topics being investigated and analyzed,
7 pipeline safety data and information that
8 the VIS has requested for submission to
9 the VIS, and safety trends identified; and

10 “(xi) perform other functions as the
11 Governing Board decides are necessary or
12 appropriate consistent with the purpose of
13 the VIS.

14 “(3) PROGRAM MANAGER.—The Administrator
15 shall provide the day-to-day program management
16 and administrative support for the VIS, including
17 oversight of the Third-Party Data Manager de-
18 scribed in paragraph (4).

19 “(4) THIRD-PARTY DATA MANAGER.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A Third-Party Data
21 Manager shall provide data management and
22 data oversight services for the VIS.

23 “(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In fulfilling the
24 responsibilities described in subparagraph (A),
25 the Third-Party Data Manager shall—

1 “(i) accept pipeline safety data and
2 information submitted to the VIS that
3 meets the criteria and procedures estab-
4 lished by the Governing Board under para-
5 graph (2)(E)(iv);

6 “(ii) de-identify, securely store, and
7 manage pipeline safety data and informa-
8 tion that is accepted by the VIS;

9 “(iii) collaborate with Issue Analysis
10 Teams described in paragraph (5) to ag-
11 gregate and analyze de-identified pipeline
12 safety data and information that is accept-
13 ed by the VIS;

14 “(iv) prepare reports as requested by
15 the Governing Board regarding the type of
16 pipeline safety data and information that
17 is managed by the VIS; and

18 “(v) make recommendations regarding
19 the management of pipeline safety data
20 and information, as appropriate.

21 “(5) ISSUE ANALYSIS TEAMS.—Issue Analysis
22 Teams of the VIS shall—

23 “(A) work with the Third-Party Data
24 Manager described in paragraph (4) to aggre-

1 gate and analyze de-identified pipeline safety
2 data and information accepted by the VIS;

3 “(B) collaborate with the Governing Board
4 to identify issues and topics for analysis and
5 submit internal reports and recommendations to
6 the Governing Board; and

7 “(C) prepare reports as requested by the
8 Governing Board regarding issues and topics
9 identified for additional research by the Gov-
10 erning Board.

11 “(6) PARTICIPATION.—

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

17 “(B) ACCEPTANCE OF INFORMATION.—
18 The VIS shall implement policies to ensure that
19 all operator data or information submitted has
20 been authorized by the operator for submission.

21 “(C) SHARING OF INFORMATION.—The
22 Governing Board shall encourage the voluntary
23 sharing of pipeline safety data and information
24 among operators of gas, carbon dioxide, and
25 hazardous liquid gathering, transmission, and

1 distribution pipelines and facilities, employees,
2 labor unions, contractors, in-line inspection
3 service providers, non-destructive evaluation ex-
4 perts, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
5 Safety Administration, representatives of State
6 pipeline safety agencies, local and Tribal gov-
7 ernments, pipeline safety advocacy groups,
8 manufacturers, research and academic institu-
9 tions, and other pipeline stakeholders.

10 “(c) INFORMATION SHARING.—

11 “(1) INCLUSIONS.—Pipeline safety data and in-
12 formation accepted by the VIS may include—

13 “(A) pipeline integrity risk analysis infor-
14 mation;

15 “(B) lessons learned from accidents and
16 near misses;

17 “(C) process improvements;

18 “(D) technology deployment practices;

19 “(E) information obtained through VIS
20 pipeline safety surveys of pipeline operator em-
21 ployees, as long as such surveys are voluntarily
22 agreed to by the pipeline operator; and

23 “(F) pipeline safety data and information
24 which may lead to the identification of pipeline
25 safety risks.

1 “(d) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

3 “(A) CONFIDENTIALITY.—To facilitate the
4 sharing of otherwise non-public pipeline safety
5 data and information (hereinafter known as
6 ‘non-public information’) in the VIS, non-public
7 information accepted by the VIS and which
8 may be analyzed, stored, or managed by the
9 VIS shall be kept confidential by the VIS.

10 “(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subpara-
11 graph (A) shall not be construed to apply to
12 public information that may be submitted to the
13 VIS or to non-public information that is re-
14 quired to be submitted to any Federal, State,
15 local, or Tribal agency under any other provi-
16 sion of law.

17 “(2) DISCLOSURE OF DE-IDENTIFIED, NON-
18 PUBLIC INFORMATION.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sub-
20 sections (e) and (f), the Governing Board may
21 approve the disclosure of de-identified, non-pub-
22 lic information by the VIS or by the Adminis-
23 trator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
24 Safety Administration based on analysis of the
25 de-identified information and any safety find-

1 ings or recommendations that the Governing
2 Board in the sole discretion of the Board deter-
3 mines to publish or authorizes the Adminis-
4 trator to publish to improve pipeline safety.

5 “(B) PUBLIC REPORTS.—In issuing public
6 reports under subsection (b)(2)(E)(x), the Gov-
7 erning Board shall approve the disclosure of de-
8 identified, non-public information by the VIS
9 that the Governing Board determines is nec-
10 essary to adequately describe and illustrate the
11 issues and topics being investigated and ana-
12 lyzed by the VIS.

13 “(3) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in para-
14 graph (2), no person, including any VIS Governing
15 Board member, the Program Manager, the Third-
16 Party Data Manager described in subsection (b)(4),
17 an Issue Analysis Team member described in sub-
18 section (b)(5), or any Federal, State, local, or Tribal
19 agency, having or obtaining access to non-public in-
20 formation by virtue of the acceptance of such infor-
21 mation to the VIS, shall release or communicate VIS
22 held non-public information, in either an identified
23 or de-identified form, to any person that does not
24 have the authority to view VIS data.

1 “(e) APPLICABILITY OF FOIA.—Any non-public in-
2 formation that is accepted by the VIS and which may be
3 analyzed, stored, or managed by the VIS and subsequently
4 obtained by the Secretary or the Administrator by virtue
5 of the acceptance of such information to the VIS shall be
6 exempt from the requirements of section 552 of title 5
7 and specifically exempt from release under subsection
8 (b)(3) of such section.

9 “(f) EXCLUSIONS.—

10 “(1) EXCLUDED EVIDENCE.—Except as pro-
11 vided in paragraph (3), non-public information ac-
12 cepted by the VIS and which may be analyzed,
13 stored, or managed by the VIS shall not be obtained
14 from the VIS—

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

18 “(B) to initiate any enforcement action or
19 civil litigation against a pipeline operator or
20 employees or contractors of such operator relat-
21 ing to a probable violation under this chapter
22 (including any regulation promulgated or order
23 issued under this chapter).

24 “(2) EXCLUSION FROM DISCOVERY.—Except as
25 provided in paragraph (3), non-public information

1 accepted by the VIS and which may be analyzed,
2 stored, or managed by the VIS shall not be subject
3 to discovery from the VIS in any Federal, State,
4 local, Tribal, or private litigation or other pro-
5 ceeding.

6 “(3) LIMITATIONS ON EXCLUSIONS.—The ex-
7 clusions described in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall
8 not apply to non-public information accepted by the
9 VIS that is—

10 “(A) evidence of a criminal violation;

11 “(B) not related to the established purpose
12 of the VIS described in subsection (a)(2);

13 “(C) otherwise required to be reported to
14 the Secretary under part 191 (including infor-
15 mation about an incident or accident), part
16 192, part 194, part 195, or part 199 of title
17 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor
18 regulations), or required to be reported under
19 the requirements of a State authority; or

20 “(D) developed or obtained from a source
21 other than the VIS, including through discovery
22 from a person or an entity other than the VIS
23 in an enforcement action or private litigation.

24 “(4) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS ON EXCLU-
25 SIONS.—The exclusions described in paragraphs (1)

1 and (2) shall not apply to non-public information
2 that is submitted to but not accepted by the VIS.

3 “(g) EFFECT ON STATE LAW.—Nothing in this sec-
4 tion shall be construed to affect Federal, State, Tribal,
5 or local pipeline safety law.

6 “(h) NO EFFECT ON DISCOVERY.—

7 “(1) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
8 this section or any rule, regulation, or amendment
9 issued pursuant to this section shall be construed to
10 create a defense to a discovery request or otherwise
11 limit or affect the discovery of pipeline safety data
12 and information arising from a cause of action au-
13 thorized under any Federal, State, Tribal, or local
14 law.

15 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
16 apply to exclusions from discovery from the VIS as
17 described in subsection (f)(2).

18 “(i) EXPENSES.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Members of the VIS Gov-
20 erning Board and Issue Analysis Teams may be paid
21 expenses under section 5703 of title 5.

22 “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—A payment
23 under this subsection shall not be construed to make
24 a member of the VIS Governing Board an officer or
25 employee of the Federal Government.

1 “(3) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Paragraph (1)
2 shall not apply to members of the VIS Governing
3 Board that are employees of the Federal Govern-
4 ment.

5 “(j) REPORT ON VIS.—Not later than 2 years after
6 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall
7 submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
8 structure and the Committee on Energy and Commerce
9 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
10 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate,
11 and make publicly available, a report that includes—

12 “(1) a detailed accounting of the allocation and
13 uses of expenditures authorized under this section;

14 “(2) an estimate of the annual cost to maintain
15 the VIS program, including an assessment and pro-
16 jection of costs associated with the Third-Party
17 Data Manager, data sourcing and storage, data gov-
18 ernance, data architecture, data consumption, and
19 the VIS operations and administration by the Pipe-
20 line and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration;

21 “(3) the methodology for determining the esti-
22 mate under paragraph (2);

23 “(4) the number of expected participants in the
24 VIS program;

1 “(5) the number of Pipeline and Hazardous
2 Materials Safety Administration positions needed to
3 maintain the VIS program;

4 “(6) the projected timeline for the implementa-
5 tion of the VIS program to meet the purposes under
6 subsection (a)(2); and

7 “(7) recommendations to ensure sufficient
8 funding for the ongoing activities of the VIS pro-
9 gram, including a reasonable fee assessed on author-
10 ized participants in the VIS program.

11 “(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated for the establishment
13 of a voluntary information-sharing program under this
14 section—

15 “(1) \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

16 “(2) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

17 “(3) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

18 “(4) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.”.

19 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
20 ter 601 of title 49, United States Code, is further amend-
21 ed by adding at the end the following:

“60145.Voluntary information-sharing system.”.

22 **SEC. 25. CARBON DIOXIDE PIPELINES.**

23 (a) PURPOSE AND GENERAL AUTHORITY.—Section
24 60102 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (1)(B)(i) by inserting
2 “or carbon dioxide” after “hazardous liquids”;
3 and

4 (B) in paragraph (2)(A)—

5 (i) by redesignating clause (ii) and
6 (iii) as clause (iii) and (iv), respectively;
7 and

8 (ii) by inserting after clause (i) the
9 following:

10 “(ii) carbon dioxide pipeline safety in-
11 formation;”;

12 (2) in subsection (c) by inserting “or carbon di-
13 oxide pipeline facility” after “hazardous liquid pipe-
14 line facility”;

15 (3) in subsection (d)(2)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and”
17 at the end;

18 (B) in subparagraph (B) by striking the
19 semicolon and inserting “; and”; and

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

21 “(C) major carbon dioxide pipeline facili-
22 ties of the operator;”;

23 (4) in subsection (e) by striking “transportation
24 of gas or hazardous liquid” and inserting “transpor-
25 tation of gas, hazardous liquid, or carbon dioxide”;

1 (5) in subsection (f)(1) by striking “natural gas
2 transmission pipeline or hazardous liquid pipeline fa-
3 cilities” and inserting “natural gas transmission
4 pipeline, hazardous liquid pipeline facilities, or car-
5 bon dioxide pipeline facilities” each place it appears;

6 (6) in subsection (i)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “regulate
8 carbon dioxide” and all that follows through
9 “by such a facility” and inserting “prescribe
10 standards related to pipeline facilities to ensure
11 the safe transportation of carbon dioxide in a
12 liquid or supercritical state by such facilities”;

13 (B) by striking paragraph (2)(B) and in-
14 serting the following:

15 “(B) INCLUSION OF APPLICABLE STAND-
16 ARDS.—The Secretary shall establish the min-
17 imum safety standards in part 195 of title 49,
18 Code of Federal Regulations, as applicable.”;

19 (C) in paragraph (3) by inserting “ pre-
20 scribe the location of a carbon dioxide storage
21 facility or to” before “regulate piping”;

22 (D) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
23 paragraph (4);

24 (E) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
25 following:

1 “(3) STORAGE OF CARBON DIOXIDE.—

2 “(A) MINIMUM SAFETY STANDARDS.—The
3 Secretary shall prescribe minimum safety
4 standards for the injection, withdrawal, and
5 storage of carbon dioxide incidental to pipeline
6 transportation.

7 “(B) STORAGE OF CARBON DIOXIDE INCI-
8 DENTAL TO PIPELINE TRANSPORTATION.—In
9 this paragraph, the term ‘storage of carbon di-
10 oxide incidental to pipeline transportation’—

11 “(i) means the temporary receipt and
12 storage of carbon dioxide transported by
13 pipeline for continued transport; but

14 “(ii) does not include—

15 “(I) with respect to each State,
16 the long-term containment of carbon
17 dioxide in subsurface geologic forma-
18 tions or other activity subject to the
19 requirements of a State underground
20 injection control program prescribed
21 by the Administrator of the Environ-
22 mental Protection Agency and appli-
23 cable to the State, or adopted by the
24 State and approved by the Adminis-
25 trator, under part C of the Safe

1 Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300h
2 et seq.); or

3 “(II) the temporary storage of
4 carbon dioxide in any excepted pipe-
5 lines listed in paragraph (b) of section
6 195.1 of title 49, Code of Federal
7 Regulations, as of the date of enact-
8 ment of the PIPES Act of 2025.”;
9 and

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

11 “(5) DISPERSION MODELING.—

12 “(A) SAFETY STANDARDS.—The Secretary
13 shall prescribe minimum safety standards to re-
14 quire each operator of a carbon dioxide pipeline
15 facility to employ vapor dispersion modeling to
16 identify high consequence areas, as defined at
17 section 195.450 of title 49, Code of Federal
18 Regulations, and paragraph (7)(I)(A) of Appen-
19 dix C to part 195 of such title, that could be
20 affected by a release from such a pipeline.

21 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In performing
22 the vapor dispersion modeling under subpara-
23 graph (A), operators of a carbon dioxide pipe-
24 line facility shall consider—

1 “(i) the topography surrounding the
2 pipeline;

3 “(ii) atmospheric conditions that
4 could affect vapor dispersion;

5 “(iii) pipeline operating characteris-
6 tics; and

7 “(iv) additional substances present in
8 the pipeline that could affect vapor disper-
9 sion.

10 “(C) MAINTENANCE OF FILES.—The Sec-
11 retary shall require each operator of a carbon
12 dioxide pipeline facility to maintain records doc-
13 umenting the areas that could affect high con-
14 sequence areas, as determined using the vapor
15 dispersion modeling required pursuant to sub-
16 paragraph (A), in the manual of written proce-
17 dures for operating, maintaining, and handling
18 emergencies for such pipeline.

19 “(D) PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE INFOR-
20 MATION.—In responding to a public request for
21 information regarding carbon dioxide dispersion
22 modeling, the Secretary may, taking into ac-
23 count public safety, security, and the need for
24 public access, exclude from disclosure (as the
25 Secretary determines appropriate)—

1 “(i) security sensitive information re-
2 lated to strategies for responding to worst-
3 case carbon dioxide release scenarios;

4 “(ii) security sensitive information re-
5 lated to carbon dioxide release plumes; and

6 “(iii) security sensitive information re-
7 lated to plans for responding to a carbon
8 dioxide release.

9 “(E) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Noth-
10 ing in this section may be construed to require
11 disclosure of information or records that are ex-
12 empt from disclosure under section 552 of title
13 5.”.

14 (b) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year
15 after the date of publishing a notice of proposed rule-
16 making titled “Pipeline Safety: Safety of Carbon Dioxide
17 and Hazardous Liquid Pipelines” (or any other notice of
18 proposed rulemaking covering substantially similar regu-
19 latory requirements), the Secretary shall issue a final rule
20 based on such proposed rulemaking. The final rule shall
21 include updates to such regulations as are necessary to
22 implement section 60102(i) of title 49, United States
23 Code, as amended by subsection (a), and other carbon di-
24 oxide safety issues identified by the Secretary.

1 (c) STATE PIPELINE SAFETY PROGRAM CERTIFI-
2 CATIONS.—Section 60105(b)(9)(A) of title 49, United
3 States Code, is amended by striking “natural gas and haz-
4 ardous liquid” and inserting “natural gas, hazardous liq-
5 uid, and carbon dioxide”.

6 (d) STATE PIPELINE SAFETY GRANTS.—Section
7 60107(a)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended
8 by inserting “or interstate carbon dioxide” after “inter-
9 state hazardous liquid”.

10 (e) INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE.—Section 60108
11 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)(1) by striking “gas pipe-
13 line facility or hazardous liquid pipeline facility” and
14 inserting “gas pipeline facility, hazardous liquid
15 pipeline facility, or carbon dioxide pipeline facility”;
16 and

17 (2) in subsection (e)(1) by striking “gas or haz-
18 ardous liquid pipeline facility” and inserting “gas
19 pipeline facility, hazardous liquid pipeline facility, or
20 carbon dioxide pipeline facility”.

21 (f) HIGH-DENSITY POPULATION AREAS AND ENVI-
22 RONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS.—Section 60109 of title
23 49, United States Code, is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a)(1)(B)—

1 (A) by inserting “or carbon dioxide” after
2 “by operators of hazardous liquid”;

3 (B) by inserting “and carbon dioxide”
4 after “each hazardous liquid” each place it ap-
5 pears; and

6 (C) in clause (ii) by inserting “or carbon
7 dioxide” after “there is a hazardous liquid”;
8 and

9 (2) in subsection (b) by inserting “or carbon di-
10 oxide” after “there is a hazardous liquid”; and

11 (3) in subsection (g)—

12 (A) in the heading by inserting “AND CAR-
13 BON DIOXIDE” after “LIQUID”; and

14 (B) in paragraph (2) by inserting “or car-
15 bon dioxide” after “underwater hazardous liq-
16 uid”.

17 (g) TECHNICAL SAFETY STANDARDS COMMIT-
18 TEES.—Section 60115 of title 49, United States Code, is
19 amended—

20 (1) in subsection (b)(2)—

21 (A) by striking “transporting hazardous
22 liquid or operating a hazardous liquid pipeline
23 facility” and inserting “transporting hazardous
24 liquid, transporting carbon dioxide, operating a
25 hazardous liquid pipeline facility, or operating a

1 carbon dioxide pipeline facility” each place it
2 appears; and

3 (B) by striking “transporting hazardous
4 liquid and of hazardous liquid pipeline facili-
5 ties” and inserting “transporting hazardous liq-
6 uid or transporting carbon dioxide and of haz-
7 ardous liquid pipeline facilities or carbon diox-
8 ide pipeline facilities”;

9 (2) in subsection (b)(3)(B) by striking “the
10 natural gas or hazardous liquid industry” and in-
11 serting “the natural gas industry, the hazardous liq-
12 uid industry, or the carbon dioxide industry”;

13 (3) in subsection (b)(4)(B) by striking “natural
14 gas pipelines or hazardous liquid pipeline facilities”
15 and inserting “natural gas pipelines, hazardous liq-
16 uid pipeline facilities, or carbon dioxide pipeline fa-
17 cilities”;

18 (4) in subsection (c)(1)(B) by striking “trans-
19 porting hazardous liquid and for hazardous liquid
20 pipeline facilities” and inserting “transporting car-
21 bon dioxide, hazardous liquid pipeline facilities and
22 carbon dioxide facilities”; and

23 (5) in subsection (d)(1) by striking “trans-
24 porting hazardous liquid and for hazardous liquid
25 pipeline facilities” and inserting “transporting haz-

1 ardous liquid, transporting carbon dioxide, haz-
2 ardous liquid pipeline facilities, and carbon dioxide
3 pipeline facilities”.

4 (h) PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—Section 60116
5 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking
6 “gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facility” and inserting
7 “gas pipeline facility, hazardous liquid pipeline facility, or
8 carbon dioxide pipeline facility” each place that it appears.

9 (i) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—Section 60117 of
10 title 49, United States Code, is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (o)(1)—

12 (A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “liq-
13 uid pipeline facility or liquefied natural gas
14 pipeline facility” and inserting “liquid pipeline
15 facility, a liquefied natural gas pipeline facility,
16 or a carbon dioxide pipeline facility”; and

17 (B) in subparagraph (B)(i)(II) by inserting
18 “or carbon dioxide pipeline facility” after “haz-
19 ardous liquid pipeline facility”; and

20 (2) in subsection (p)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “gas or
22 hazardous liquid pipeline facilities” and insert-
23 ing “gas pipeline facilities, hazardous liquid
24 pipeline facilities, or carbon dioxide pipeline fa-
25 cilities”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (8) by striking “gas or
2 hazardous liquid pipeline facility” and inserting
3 “gas pipeline facility, hazardous liquid pipeline
4 facility, or carbon dioxide pipeline facility”.

5 (j) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Section 60123(b) of title
6 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “an inter-
7 state hazardous liquid pipeline facility, or either an intra-
8 state gas pipeline facility or intrastate hazardous liquid
9 pipeline facility” and inserting “an interstate hazardous
10 liquid pipeline facility, an interstate carbon dioxide pipe-
11 line facility, or either an intrastate gas pipeline facility,
12 an intrastate hazardous liquid pipeline facility, or an
13 intrastate carbon dioxide facility”.

14 (k) EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS.—Section
15 60125(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended
16 by striking “gas or hazardous liquid pipelines” and insert-
17 ing “gas pipelines, hazardous liquid pipelines, or carbon
18 dioxide pipelines”.

19 (l) DUMPING WITHIN PIPELINE RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—
20 Section 60128(a) of title 49, United States Code, is
21 amended by striking “interstate gas pipeline facility or
22 interstate hazardous liquid pipeline facility” and inserting
23 “interstate gas pipeline facility, interstate hazardous liq-
24 uid pipeline facility, or interstate carbon dioxide pipeline
25 facility”.

1 (m) VERIFICATION OF PIPELINE QUALIFICATION
2 PROGRAMS.—Section 60131(g) of title 49, United States
3 Code, is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1) by striking “and” at the
5 end;

6 (2) in paragraph (2) by striking the period at
7 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

9 “(3) with respect to a carbon dioxide pipeline
10 facility, activities equivalent to the activities de-
11 scribed with respect to a hazardous liquid pipeline
12 facility under section 195.501 of such title.”.

13 (n) ENFORCEMENT TRANSPARENCY.—Section
14 60135(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended
15 by striking “gas and hazardous liquid pipeline” and in-
16 serting “gas, hazardous liquid, and carbon dioxide pipe-
17 line”.

18 (o) PIPELINE CONTROL ROOM MANAGEMENT.—Sec-
19 tion 60137 and title 49, United States Code, is amend-
20 ed—

21 (1) in subsection (a) by striking “gas or haz-
22 ardous liquid pipeline” and inserting “gas, haz-
23 ardous liquid, or carbon dioxide pipeline”;

1 (2) in subsection (d) by striking “gas or haz-
2 ardous liquid pipeline” and inserting “gas, haz-
3 ardous liquid, or carbon dioxide pipeline”; and

4 (3) in subsection (e) by striking “gas or haz-
5 ardous liquid pipeline” and inserting “gas, haz-
6 ardous liquid, or carbon dioxide pipeline”.

7 (p) PIPELINE SAFETY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS.—
8 Section 60142 of title 49, United States Code, is amend-
9 ed—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “or” at
12 the end;

13 (B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
14 paragraph (3); and

15 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
16 following:

17 “(2) a carbon dioxide pipeline facility; or”;

18 (2) in subsection (k)(2)(A) by striking “inter-
19 state gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facilities” and
20 inserting “interstate gas pipeline facilities, interstate
21 hazardous liquid pipeline facilities, or interstate car-
22 bon dioxide pipeline facilities”; and

23 (3) in subsection (l)(1) by striking “interstate
24 gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facilities” and in-
25 serting “interstate gas pipeline facilities, interstate

1 hazardous liquid pipeline facilities, or interstate car-
2 bon dioxide pipeline facilities”.

3 (q) IDLED PIPELINES.—Section 60143 of title 49,
4 United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)(2) by inserting “carbon di-
6 oxide,” after “hazardous liquid,”; and

7 (2) in subsection (b) by striking “gas trans-
8 mission and hazardous liquid pipelines” and insert-
9 ing “gas transmission, hazardous liquid, and carbon
10 dioxide pipelines” each place it appears.

11 (r) USER FEES.—Section 60301 of title 49, United
12 States Code, is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a) by striking “natural gas
14 and hazardous liquids” and inserting “natural gas,
15 hazardous liquids, and carbon dioxide”;

16 (2) in subsection (b) by striking “gas pipeline
17 facility, or a hazardous liquid pipeline facility” and
18 inserting “gas pipeline facility, a hazardous liquid
19 pipeline facility, or a carbon dioxide pipeline facil-
20 ity”; and

21 (3) in subsection (d)(1)—

22 (A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and”
23 at the end; and

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

1 “(C) related to a carbon dioxide pipeline facility
2 may be used only for an activity related to carbon
3 dioxide under chapter 601 of this title; and”.

4 **SEC. 26. OPPORTUNITY FOR FORMAL HEARING.**

5 (a) ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES.—Section
6 60117(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—
7 (1) in subparagraph (I) by striking “and” at
8 the end;
9 (2) in subparagraph (J) by striking the period
10 and inserting “; and”; and
11 (3) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(K) allow the respondent an opportunity
13 for a hearing on the record conducted by an ad-
14 ministrative law judge, in accordance with sec-
15 tion 554 of title 5, for a notice of probable vio-
16 lation enforcement matter—

17 “(i) with a proposed civil penalty of at
18 least \$125,000; or

19 “(ii) where the respondent can reason-
20 ably show the cost of the proposed compli-
21 ance action will exceed \$125,000.”.

22 (b) PROTOCOLS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.—Not later
23 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the
24 Secretary of Transportation shall publish protocols for
25 hearings open to the public pursuant to section

1 60117(b)(2) of title 49, United States Code, that ensure
2 an orderly process and protection of confidential informa-
3 tion.

4 (c) REPORT ON USE OF FORMAL HEARING PROC-
5 ESS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment
6 of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee
7 on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee
8 on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives
9 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
10 tation of the Senate a report detailing—

11 (1) the number of hearings held pursuant to
12 subparagraph (K) of section 60117(b)(1) of title 49,
13 United States Code;

14 (2) the status of each such hearing;

15 (3) an analysis comparing the informal hearing
16 process and the formal hearing process that de-
17 scribes—

18 (A) the length of time to resolve an en-
19 forcement action under section 60117 of title
20 49, United States Code;

21 (B) the cost of the enforcement action
22 process to—

23 (i) the respondent; and

24 (ii) the Pipeline and Hazardous Mate-
25 rials Safety Administration; and

1 (C) the number of cases that reach settle-
2 ment and the outcome of such cases;

3 (4) any additional resources that are needed by
4 the Secretary in response to implementing this pro-
5 vision for each fiscal year to carry out the amend-
6 ment made by subsection (a); and

7 (5) any safety improvements identified as a re-
8 sult of the implementation of subparagraph (K) of
9 section 60117(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code.

10 **SEC. 27. STATE PIPELINE SAFETY GRANTS REPORTING.**

11 Section 60107(b) of title 49, United States Code, is
12 amended—

13 (1) by striking “After notifying” and inserting
14 “(1) WITHHOLDING OF PAYMENT.—After noti-
15 fying”; and

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

17 “(2) BUDGET ESTIMATE.—The budget estimates of
18 the Secretary for each fiscal year shall include—

19 “(A) a summary of amounts claimed,
20 amounts reimbursed, and the percentages reim-
21 bursed in the preceding 3 fiscal years for the
22 program under this section; and

23 “(B) the estimated funding necessary to
24 fund 80 percent of the cost of the personnel,

1 equipment, and activities under this section for
2 the subsequent calendar year.”.

3 **SEC. 28. DISCLOSURE OF SAFETY INFORMATION ASSESS-**
4 **MENT.**

5 (a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-
7 tation shall conduct an assessment on how gas pipeline
8 facility, hazardous liquid pipeline facility, and carbon diox-
9 ide pipeline facility owners and operators engage with, and
10 provide safety information to, the public and State, Tribal,
11 or local emergency response organizations.

12 (b) SAFETY INFORMATION.—In conducting the as-
13 sessment required under subsection (a), the Secretary
14 shall consider—

15 (1) pipeline safety materials that the owners
16 and operators of pipelines described in subsection
17 (a) voluntarily provide to the public;

18 (2) methods of interaction between pipeline fa-
19 cility owners and operators and the public and State,
20 Tribal, and local emergency response entities;

21 (3) Federal, State, Tribal, and local government
22 regulations governing information that pipeline facil-
23 ity owners and operators are required to share with
24 the public;

1 (4) industry consensus standards regarding the
2 sharing of pipeline safety and emergency response
3 information;

4 (5) specific data that could be shared with local,
5 Tribal, and State emergency response and planning
6 agencies, local public and Tribal officials, and gov-
7 erning councils to enhance information sharing and
8 pipeline safety, specifically—

9 (A) the identification of general pipeline lo-
10 cation, or information including location, the
11 products transported by pipeline or stored at an
12 underground natural gas facility, data on
13 breakout tanks or production facilities that in-
14 cludes pipeline classification and impact areas,
15 and owner or operator emergency response
16 planning materials; and

17 (B) information emergency response orga-
18 nizations ask pipeline owners and operators to
19 voluntarily share with the public;

20 (6) emergency response materials that pipeline
21 facility owners and operators voluntarily provide to
22 emergency response organizations;

23 (7) how pipeline facility owners and operators
24 communicate with emergency response organiza-
25 tions, including—

1 (A) the functional quality and use of data
2 shared through the National Pipeline Mapping
3 System; and

4 (B) the measures taken by emergency re-
5 sponse organizations to secure any sensitive in-
6 formation shared;

7 (8) emergency response planning guidance and
8 requirements issued by emergency response organi-
9 zations for pipeline facility owners and operators;
10 and

11 (9) changes emergency response organizations
12 recommend to improve communication with the pub-
13 lic and emergency response coordination organiza-
14 tions.

15 (c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the assessment
16 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with both
17 large and small pipeline facility owners and operators,
18 urban and rural State, local, and Tribal governments,
19 emergency response organizations, and pipeline safety or-
20 ganizations.

21 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days
22 after completion of the assessment in subsection (a), the
23 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transpor-
24 tation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Energy
25 and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the

1 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
2 the Senate, a report containing the findings of the assess-
3 ment under subsection (a) and any legislative rec-
4 ommendations of the Secretary.

5 (e) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the
6 submission of the report under subsection (d), the Sec-
7 retary may issue guidance to improve pipeline safety infor-
8 mation sharing with the public and other interested par-
9 ties to advance pipeline safety.

10 (f) DEFINITIONS.—The definitions contained in sec-
11 tion 60101(a) of title 49, United States Code, shall apply
12 to this section.

13 **SEC. 29. ASSESSMENT OF CERTAIN PIPELINE SAFETY DEFI-**
14 **NITIONS.**

15 (a) EVALUATION.—Not later than 1 year after the
16 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-
17 tation shall evaluate the definition in section
18 192.5(b)(3)(ii) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations,
19 and the definition of identified site in section 192.903 of
20 title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, to determine the
21 adequacy for protecting buildings and occupied outdoor fa-
22 cilities from pipeline safety incidents.

23 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the evalua-
24 tion under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider—

1 (1) whether to revise the definition of the occu-
2 pancy counts of these areas;

3 (2) whether consistency in minimum occupancy
4 thresholds throughout part 192 of title 49, Code of
5 Federal Regulations, would improve safety; and

6 (3) whether defining the occupancy counts in
7 these areas as 20 or more persons on at least a total
8 of 50 days within any 12-month period would im-
9 prove—

10 (A) safety; and

11 (B) the efficiency of carrying out class de-
12 terminations.

13 (c) MODIFICATION OF DEFINITIONS.—The Secretary
14 shall issue such regulations as the Secretary determines
15 necessary to modify the definitions in subsection (a) to
16 increase safety for the protection of buildings and occupied
17 outdoor facilities from pipeline safety incidents.

18 **SEC. 30. REPORT ASSESSING THE COSTS OF PIPELINE FAIL-**
19 **URES.**

20 (a) REPORT ASSESSING THE COSTS OF PIPELINE
21 FAILURES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of en-
22 actment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall
23 enter into an agreement with the National Academies
24 under which the National Academies shall, not later than
25 3 years after such date of enactment, conduct a study of

1 the direct and indirect costs related to the failure or shut-
2 down of a gas, hazardous liquid, or carbon dioxide pipeline
3 facility.

4 (b) ELEMENTS.—The study described under sub-
5 section (a) may include an analysis of—

6 (1) the direct and indirect costs related to a
7 failure or shutdown of a gas, hazardous liquid, or
8 carbon dioxide pipeline facility, including local,
9 State, and Tribal community emergency response
10 costs, local, State, and Tribal planning for emer-
11 gency response, and local, State, and Tribal commu-
12 nity impact costs of loss of product;

13 (2) the costs to an operator of such a facility
14 of complying with enforcement actions related to a
15 pipeline facility failure or shutdown, such as correc-
16 tive action or consent orders, safety orders, and
17 emergency orders;

18 (3) the direct and indirect costs related to fail-
19 ure or shutdown of a gas, hazardous liquid, or car-
20 bon dioxide pipeline facility resulting from a cyber
21 attack or intrusion, including any economic and sup-
22 ply chain impacts;

23 (4) the impact to emergency response planning
24 and resources of local communities, operators of gas,
25 hazardous liquid, or carbon dioxide pipeline facilities,

1 and the State, Federal, local, and Tribal govern-
2 ments in responding to and mitigating the impacts
3 of a failure or shutdown of a gas, hazardous liquid,
4 or carbon dioxide pipeline facility;

5 (5) the costs of environmental remediation re-
6 sulting from a gas, hazardous liquid, or carbon diox-
7 ide pipeline facility failure or shutdown;

8 (6) the economic impact of a gas, hazardous
9 liquid, or carbon dioxide pipeline facility failure or
10 shutdown, including—

11 (A) increases in product costs;

12 (B) damage to public and private property;

13 and

14 (C) the potential costs of moving gas, haz-
15 ardous liquid, or carbon dioxide by other means
16 of transportation, including by rail, truck, and
17 barge; and

18 (7) increased energy costs to households and
19 businesses reliant on the movement of the gas, haz-
20 ardous liquid or carbon dioxide due to the shutdown
21 or failure of a pipeline facility.

22 (c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under
23 subsection (a), the National Academies shall consult with
24 economists, State, Federal, local, and Tribal governments,
25 emergency management officials, and pipeline stake-

1 holders, including pipeline facility operators and public
2 safety and environmental groups.

3 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Upon completion of the
4 study conducted under subsection (a), the Secretary
5 shall—

6 (1) require the National Academies to submit to
7 the Secretary a report on such study; and

8 (2) submit to the Committee on Transportation
9 and Infrastructure and the Committee on Energy
10 and Commerce of the House of Representatives and
11 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
12 portation of the Senate a report containing the re-
13 sults of such study.

14 **SEC. 31. STUDY ON LOCALIZED EMERGENCY ALERT SYS-**
15 **TEM FOR PIPELINE FACILITIES INCIDENTS.**

16 (a) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than 18 months after
17 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
18 of the United States shall submit to the Secretary of
19 Transportation, the Committee on Transportation and In-
20 frastructure and the Committee on Energy and Commerce
21 of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on
22 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a
23 study assessing—

1 (1) the need and feasibility of requiring owners
2 and operators of covered facilities to establish and
3 maintain a localized emergency alert system; and

4 (2) whether such an alert system would be best
5 maintained by State, Tribal, or local emergency
6 management officials or owners and operators of
7 such facilities.

8 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study
9 under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall—

10 (1) consider the feasibility, benefits, costs, and
11 safety impacts to affected stakeholders, including
12 owners and operators of covered facilities, the public,
13 and State and local emergency management officials,
14 of requiring a localized emergency alert system;

15 (2) consider whether a localized emergency alert
16 system can be established by such owners and opera-
17 tors or incorporated into existing public alert, broad-
18 cast, and electronic emergency alert systems, includ-
19 ing by assessing—

20 (A) whether a localized emergency alert
21 system established and maintained by an owner
22 or operator of a covered facility would conflict
23 with, or impede the operation of, existing emer-
24 gency alert systems;

1 (B) the feasibility, benefits, costs, and
2 technological needs of incorporating facility sys-
3 tem data into existing emergency alert systems;

4 (C) whether local emergency management
5 organizations may need additional hardware,
6 software, personnel, or communications support
7 to incorporate a localized emergency alert sys-
8 tem into an existing emergency alert system;

9 (D) whether other systems could support
10 notification to the public of an incident or acci-
11 dent at a covered facility, such as the National
12 Response Center, the Reverse-911 telecommuni-
13 cation system, or severe weather warning sys-
14 tems; and

15 (E) whether localized emergency alert sys-
16 tems have been considered, studied, or imple-
17 mented in other high hazard industries, such as
18 industrial gases, chemicals, petrochemicals, and
19 petroleum refining, and the results of any study
20 or implementation of such systems in such in-
21 dustries;

22 (3) consult with owners and operators of large
23 and small covered facilities, public safety advocacy
24 groups, and urban and rural State, Tribal, and local
25 emergency management officials;

1 (4) assess the adequacy of existing practices of
2 owners and operators of covered facilities in pro-
3 viding timely and pertinent safety communication
4 about an incident or accident at such facility to local
5 communities, including individuals with disabilities
6 and other at-risk populations with access and func-
7 tional needs, affected by such incident or accident;

8 (5) assess whether there are legal hurdles to es-
9 tablishing a localized emergency alert system that
10 uses voluntarily collected data or opt-in procedures,
11 including any data security considerations;

12 (6) consider the feasibility, benefits, costs, and
13 other impacts to State and Federal safety regulators
14 who would oversee any requirement of owners and
15 operators of covered facilities;

16 (7) assess the types of incidents and accidents
17 at covered facilities, by commodities transported and
18 the unique characteristics of such incident or acci-
19 dent, that should be reported through a localized
20 emergency alert system and the content of the infor-
21 mation that should be provided;

22 (8) assess which members of the public should
23 receive communications from localized emergency
24 alert systems, including individuals, persons, or or-
25 ganizations located in the vicinity of high con-

1 sequence areas, unusually sensitive areas, and any
2 other defining characteristics as determined by the
3 Comptroller General; and

4 (9) consider whether any Federal requirements
5 or mandates are needed in order to establish an ef-
6 fective localized emergency alert system for incidents
7 or accidents at covered facilities.

8 (c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Comptroller General
9 shall include in the study conducted under subsection (a)
10 any policy recommendations developed as a result of the
11 information studied and assessed under subsection (b).

12 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) COVERED FACILITY.—The term “covered
14 facility” means a gas pipeline facility, a hazardous
15 liquid pipeline facility, or a carbon dioxide pipeline
16 facility, including a liquefied natural gas storage fa-
17 cility or an underground natural gas storage facility,
18 as defined in section 60101 of title 49, United
19 States Code.

20 (2) LOCALIZED EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM.—
21 The term “localized emergency alert system” means
22 a system that provides to individuals in the imme-
23 diate vicinity of a covered facility an electronic noti-
24 fication of an incident or accident at such facility
25 that presents an immediate risk to life or property.

1 **SEC. 32. MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE OPERATING PRESSURE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 60139 of title 49, United
3 States Code, is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (c)(1)(A) by inserting “except
5 as provided in subsection (e),” before “require”;

6 (2) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
7 section (f); and

8 (3) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(e) TESTING RECORDS WORKING GROUP.—

11 “(1) PREVIOUSLY TESTED TRANSMISSION
12 LINES.—Until the completion of the report of the
13 Working Group required under paragraph (2) and
14 the rulemaking proceeding required under paragraph
15 (3), the Secretary shall not require an owner or op-
16 erator of a pipeline facility to reconfirm the max-
17 imum allowable operating pressure of a natural gas
18 transmission pipeline pursuant to section 192.624 of
19 title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, if the owner
20 or operator confirms the material strength of the
21 pipeline through prior testing conducted to a suffi-
22 cient minimum pressure in accordance with pre-
23 vailing safety standards and practices, including any
24 applicable class location factors, and documented in
25 contemporaneous records.

26 “(2) WORKING GROUP REPORT.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—No later than 30 days
2 after the date of enactment of the PIPES Act
3 of 2025, the Secretary of Transportation shall
4 create a fairly balanced working group (herein-
5 after referred to as the ‘Working Group’) to
6 produce a report containing recommendations
7 on the minimum pressure and contemporaneous
8 records that are sufficient to confirm the mate-
9 rial strength of a pipeline through prior testing.

10 “(B) COMPOSITION OF WORKING GROUP.—
11 The Working Group—

12 “(i) shall be comprised of the Admin-
13 istrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Ma-
14 terials Safety Administration, State pipe-
15 line regulators, the public, and industry
16 stakeholders active in the operation of nat-
17 ural gas pipelines; and

18 “(ii) may include members of the
19 Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Com-
20 mittee or be conducted in a manner that
21 otherwise ensures input from the public, as
22 determined appropriate by the Secretary.

23 “(C) CONSIDERATION.—In preparing the
24 report required under paragraph (1), the Work-
25 ing Group—

1 “(i) shall consider historical practices
2 and all available research conducted re-
3 garding minimum pressure and contem-
4 poraneous records on transmission pipe-
5 lines; and

6 “(ii) may consider the need for any
7 additional research or analyses needed to
8 demonstrate the adequacy of any strength
9 testing performed.

10 “(D) APPLICABILITY OF FACA.—Chapter
11 10 of title 5 shall not apply to the Working
12 Group.

13 “(E) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Not later
14 than 180 days after the date of enactment of
15 the PIPES Act of 2025, the Working Group
16 shall submit to the Secretary the report pro-
17 duced under paragraph (2), including any mi-
18 nority views.

19 “(3) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days
20 after receiving the report described in paragraph (2),
21 the Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking proceeding
22 under section 60102 to revise, or make a technical
23 correction to, the maximum allowable operating

- 1 pressure reconfirmation regulations issued pursuant
- 2 to this section.”.

