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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 49, United States Code, to provide enhanced safety in pipeline transportation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M_____. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to provide enhanced safety in pipeline transportation, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS; DEFINI-**
4 **TION.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 “(A) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2026, 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) \$11,000,000 shall be used for
8 making grants;

9 “(B) \$30,500,000 for fiscal year 2027, 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) \$11,500,000 shall be used for
18 making grants;

19 “(C) \$31,000,000 for fiscal year 2028, 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) \$12,000,000 shall be used for
4 making grants; and

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

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

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

15 “(3) UNDERGROUND NATURAL GAS STORAGE
16 FACILITY SAFETY ACCOUNT.—From fees collected
17 under section 60302, there is authorized to be ap-
18 propriated to the Secretary to carry out section
19 60141 \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
20 through 2029.

21 “(4) RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.—From
22 amounts made available to the Secretary under
23 paragraphs (1) and (2), the Secretary shall use, to
24 carry out section 104(a) of the PIPES Act of 2025
25 and section 102(c) of the Protecting our Infrastruc-

1 ture of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2020
2 (Public Law 116–260)—

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

5 “(i) \$2,890,000 shall be from
6 amounts made available under paragraph
7 (1)(A); and

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

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

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

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

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

19 “(i) \$5,780,000 shall be from
20 amounts made available under paragraph
21 (1)(C); and

22 “(ii) \$1,020,000 shall be from
23 amounts made available under paragraph
24 (2)(C); and

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

3 “(i) \$7,225,000 shall be from
4 amounts made available under paragraph
5 (1)(D); and

6 “(ii) \$1,275,000 shall be from
7 amounts made available under paragraph
8 (2)(D).”.

9 (b) OPERATIONAL EXPENSES.—Section 2(b) of the
10 PIPES Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–183; 130 Stat. 515)
11 is amended by striking paragraphs (1) through (3) and
12 inserting the following:

13 “(1) \$31,681,000 for fiscal year 2026.

14 “(2) \$32,000,000 for fiscal year 2027.

15 “(3) \$33,000,000 for fiscal year 2028.

16 “(4) \$34,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.”.

17 (c) ONE-CALL NOTIFICATION PROGRAMS.—Section
18 6107 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by strik-
19 ing “\$1,058,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through
20 2023” and inserting “\$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years
21 2026 through 2029”.

22 (d) EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS.—Section
23 60125(b)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended
24 by striking “fiscal years 2021 through 2023” and insert-
25 ing “fiscal years 2026 through 2029”.

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

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

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

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

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

11 (f) IMPROVING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section
12 60130(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (g) DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—Section
23 60134(i) of title 49, United States Code, is amended in
24 the first sentence by striking “\$1,500,000 for each of fis-

1 cal years 2021 through 2023” and inserting “\$2,000,000
2 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029”.

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

6 (1) by striking “\$3,000,000” and inserting
7 “\$2,000,000”; and

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

10 (i) SECURING SYSTEMS GRANTS.—

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

14 **“§ 60144. Safe Energy for Communities Updating and**
15 **Replacing Infrastructure for Natural Gas**
16 **Systems grants**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide
18 grants to assist publicly owned natural gas distribution
19 pipeline systems to—

20 “(1) advance the safe delivery of energy
21 through reducing the risk profile of existing munic-
22 ipal and community-owned natural gas distribution
23 infrastructure that contains high-risk or leaking
24 pipelines that may result in fatalities, injuries, or

1 significant damages to property resulting from unin-
2 tentional natural gas leaks; and

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

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

7 “(1) community;

8 “(2) municipality;

9 “(3) city or township;

10 “(4) county; or

11 “(5) Federally-recognized Tribal government.

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

19 “(d) USES.—A grant provided under this section may
20 be used to repair, rehabilitate, or replace a natural gas
21 distribution pipeline system or portions of a natural gas
22 distribution pipeline system.

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

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

5 “(2) the financial ability of the utility to fund
6 the project in the absence of Federal financial assist-
7 ance;

8 “(3) the ability for the project to reduce mone-
9 tary losses to the utility by improving system reli-
10 ability, reducing lost natural gas from leaking pipe,
11 or reducing costs associated with maintenance and
12 repair activities; and

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

15 “(f) PRIORITIZATION.—In making grants for projects
16 eligible under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize
17 grants for projects that—

18 “(1) serve a rural area, as defined in section
19 22907(g)(2) or an economically distressed commu-
20 nity that meets the eligibility criteria described in
21 section 301 of the Public Works and Economic De-
22 velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161); or

23 “(2) address the highest safety concerns based
24 on the risk profile and condition of the existing pipe-
25 line system as outlined in the operator’s distribution

1 integrity management plan, factoring in relevant
2 data, leak statistics, and risk analysis.

3 “(g) LIMITATIONS.—

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

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

14 “(h) COST SHARING.—The total amount awarded for
15 a project under this section shall be not less than 90 per-
16 cent of the total eligible project costs described in sub-
17 section (d).

18 “(i) FUNDING.—

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

24 “(2) REQUIREMENT.—Any amounts used to
25 carry out this section—

1 “(A) shall be derived from the General
2 Fund of the Treasury; and

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

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

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

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 Section 60101(a) of title 49, United States Code, is
10 amended—

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

13 (2) in paragraph (18) by inserting “, a carbon
14 dioxide pipeline facility,” after “gas pipeline facil-
15 ity”;

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

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

20 (5) in paragraph (25) by striking “and” at the
21 end;

22 (6) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3),
23 (4), (5), (6), (9), (7), (10), (8), (11), (12), (13),
24 (14), (15), (16), (17), (18), (19), (23), (24), (25),

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

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

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

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

13 “(A) means a pipeline, a right of way, a
14 facility, a building, or equipment used, or in-
15 tended to be used, in transporting carbon diox-
16 ide or treating carbon dioxide during the trans-
17 portation of such carbon dioxide; but

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

21 “(3) ‘de-identified’ means the process by which
22 all information that is likely to establish the identity
23 of the specific persons, organizations, or entities
24 submitting reports, data, or other information is re-
25 moved from reports, data, or other information;”;

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

3 “(9) ‘interstate carbon dioxide pipeline facility’
4 means a carbon dioxide pipeline facility used to
5 transport carbon dioxide in interstate or foreign
6 commerce;

7 “(10) ‘intrastate carbon dioxide pipeline facility’
8 means a carbon dioxide pipeline facility that is not
9 an interstate carbon dioxide facility;”;

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

12 “(22) ‘non-public pipeline safety data and infor-
13 mation’ means any pipeline safety data or informa-
14 tion, regardless of form or format, that a company
15 does not disclose, disseminate, or make available to
16 the public or that is not otherwise in the public do-
17 main;”;

18 (10) by inserting after paragraph (25), as so
19 redesignated, the following:

20 “(26) ‘public information’ means any data or
21 information, regardless of form or format, that a
22 company discloses, disseminates, or makes available
23 to the public or that is otherwise in the public do-
24 main;”;

1 (11) by inserting after paragraph (30), as so
2 redesignated, the following:

3 “(31) ‘transporting carbon dioxide’ means the
4 movement of carbon dioxide or the storage of carbon
5 dioxide incidental to the movement of carbon dioxide
6 by pipeline, in or affecting interstate or foreign com-
7 merce;”; and

8 (12) by inserting after paragraph (33), as so
9 redesignated, the following:

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

14 **SEC. 4. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.**

15 (a) ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOY-
16 EES.—In addition to the personnel level authorized for the
17 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
18 as of the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
19 of such Administration may increase the number of full-
20 time equivalent employees or directly supporting in the Of-
21 fice of Pipeline Safety by not more than 30 positions for
22 employees who have advanced engineering, scientific, or
23 other technical expertise (or equivalent experience) to—

24 (1) develop and implement pipeline safety poli-
25 cies and regulations; and

1 (2) fulfill congressional rulemaking mandates.

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

5 (1) any progress made on implementation of
6 subsection (a);

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

10 (3) barriers and challenges to hiring and reten-
11 tion at the Administration;

12 (4) staffing levels of inspection and enforcement
13 personnel of the Administration; and

14 (5) any additional workforce needs of the Ad-
15 ministration.

16 (c) EFFECT ON EXISTING REGULATION.—Section
17 102(c) of the PIPES Act of 2020 (49 U.S.C. 60101 note)
18 is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
19 following:

20 “(3) EFFECT ON EXISTING REGULATION.—In
21 implementing the incentives described in paragraph
22 (1), the Secretary, in consultation with the Adminis-
23 trator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safe-
24 ty Administration, may waive existing regulations.”.

1 **SEC. 5. REGULATORY UPDATES.**

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

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

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

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

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

16 (A) has not been published in the Federal
17 Register; and

18 (B) is required to be issued under this Act
19 or any other Act.

20 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—

21 (1) PERIODIC UPDATES.—Not later than 30
22 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and
23 every 30 days thereafter until each outstanding
24 mandate is published in the Federal Register, the
25 Secretary of Transportation shall publish on a pub-
26 licly available website of the Department of Trans-

1 portation an update regarding the status of each
2 such mandate in accordance with subsection (c).

3 (2) NOTIFICATION OF CONGRESS.—On publica-
4 tion of a final rule in the Federal Register for an
5 outstanding mandate, the Secretary shall submit to
6 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
7 and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the
8 House of Representatives and the Committee on
9 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
10 ate a notification of such publication.

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

14 (1) with respect to information relating to the
15 Administration—

16 (A) a description of the work plan for each
17 outstanding mandate;

18 (B) an updated rulemaking timeline for
19 each outstanding mandate;

20 (C) the staff allocations with respect to
21 each outstanding mandate;

22 (D) any resource constraints affecting the
23 rulemaking process for each outstanding man-
24 date;

1 (E) any other details associated with the
2 development of each outstanding mandate that
3 affect the progress of the rulemaking process
4 with respect to that outstanding mandate; and

5 (F) a description of all rulemakings re-
6 garding gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facili-
7 ties published in the Federal Register that are
8 not identified under subsection (b)(2); and

9 (2) with respect to information relating to the
10 Office of the Secretary—

11 (A) the date that the outstanding mandate
12 was submitted to the Office of the Secretary for
13 review;

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

16 (C) the staff allocations within the Office
17 of the Secretary with respect to each out-
18 standing mandate;

19 (D) any resource constraints affecting re-
20 view of the outstanding mandate;

21 (E) an estimated timeline of when review
22 of the outstanding mandate will be complete, as
23 of the date of the update;

24 (F) if applicable, the date that the out-
25 standing mandate was returned to the Adminis-

1 tration for revision and the anticipated date for
2 resubmission to the Office of the Secretary;

3 (G) the date that the outstanding mandate
4 was submitted to the Office of Management and
5 Budget for review; and

6 (H) a statement of whether the out-
7 standing mandate remains under review by the
8 Office of Management and Budget.

9 **SEC. 6. INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE.**

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

13 “(l) UPDATING STANDARDS.—

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

1 erative Research and Production Act of 1993 (15
2 U.S.C. 4301(a)).

3 “(2) DISCRETION IN ADOPTING INDUSTRY
4 STANDARDS.—The Secretary may decline to adopt
5 an industry standard that is inconsistent with appli-
6 cable law or otherwise impracticable, including in
7 circumstances where the use of an industry standard
8 would not serve the needs of the Federal pipeline
9 safety regulatory program, would impose undue bur-
10 dens, or if the Secretary determines the standard
11 was improperly influenced by foreign entities.

12 “(3) LIST OF INDUSTRY STANDARDS.—The
13 Secretary shall—

14 “(A) maintain a publicly available list of
15 all industry standards considered for adoption
16 under this chapter and the agency’s adjudica-
17 tion of each considered standard;

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

21 “(C) submit to the Committee on Trans-
22 portation and Infrastructure and the Com-
23 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House
24 of Representatives and the Committee on Com-

1 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
2 ate such list not later than—

3 “(i) 30 days after completion of such
4 list; and

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

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

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

15 (1) conduct a review to determine compliance
16 with section 60102(l)(4) of title 49, United States
17 Code; and

18 (2) submit to the Committee on Transportation
19 and Infrastructure and the Committee on Energy
20 and Commerce of the House of Representatives and
21 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
22 portation of the Senate a report on the review con-
23 ducted under paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 7. INSPECTION ACTIVITY REPORTING.**

2 (a) INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES.—

3 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this
4 Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall establish, and
5 make available to the public in an electronically accessible
6 format, a report containing the inspection and enforce-
7 ment priorities of the Office of Pipeline Safety of the Pipe-
8 line and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration for
9 fiscal years 2026 through 2029. Such report shall include
10 a description of—

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

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

15 (3) how the Administrator communicates and
16 coordinates the implementation of inspection and en-
17 forcement priorities with regional offices and State
18 inspectors operating under delegated authority.

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

23 (c) SUMMARY OF PIPELINE INSPECTIONS.—Not later
24 than June 1 of each year beginning with the year after
25 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
26 make available to the public in an electronically accessible

1 format a summary of Federal and State pipeline inspec-
2 tions conducted under direct or delegated authority of title
3 49, United States Code, during the previous calendar year,
4 to include—

5 (1) the date of the inspection;

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

7 (3) the pipeline system or segment inspected;

8 (4) the region or regions of the Pipeline and
9 Hazardous Materials Safety Administration in which
10 the inspected system or segment operates;

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (b) REPORT.—Section 60115(c)(2) of title 49, United
24 States Code, is amended by inserting “and provide written
25 notification of such reasons to the Committee on Trans-

1 portation and Infrastructure and the Committee on En-
2 ergy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and
3 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
4 of the Senate at the time a final rulemaking relating to
5 the standard is issued” after “publish the reasons”.

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

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

11 It is the sense of Congress that—

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

22 (A) inform the work of the Secretary;

23 (B) assist the Administrator of the Pipe-
24 line and Hazardous Materials Safety Adminis-
25 tration in developing the scope of a rule; and

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

3 (2) when it would reduce the time required for
4 the Secretary to adjudicate public comments, the
5 Administrator should publicly provide information
6 describing the rationale behind a regulatory decision
7 included in proposed regulations in order to better
8 allow for the public to provide clear and informed
9 comments on such regulations.

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

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

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

19 (1) proactively engage with pipeline stake-
20 holders, including the public, pipeline operators,
21 public safety organizations, and State, local, and
22 Tribal government officials, to raise awareness of
23 pipeline safety practices;

24 (2) promote the adoption and increased use of
25 safety programs and activities;

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

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

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

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

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

14 **SEC. 11. CLASS LOCATION CHANGES.**

15 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
16 of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall prescribe
17 a final rule amending the safety standards for class loca-
18 tion changes in parts 191 and 192 of title 49, Code of
19 Federal Regulations, based on the notice of proposed rule-
20 making published by the Pipeline and Hazardous Mate-
21 rials Safety Administration on October 14, 2020, titled
22 “Pipeline Safety: Class Location Change Requirements”
23 (85 Fed. Reg. 65142), including consideration of all docu-
24 ments in Docket No. PHMSA–2017–0151.

1 **SEC. 12. PIPELINE OPERATING STATUS.**

2 Section 60143(b) of title 49, United States Code, is
3 amended—

4 (1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
5 following:

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
7 after the date of enactment of the PIPES Act of
8 2025, the Secretary shall issue a notice of proposed
9 rulemaking prescribing the applicability of the pipe-
10 line safety requirements to idled natural gas or other
11 gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines.”;
12 and

13 (2) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the
14 following:

15 “(E) CONSIDERATION.—In promulgating
16 regulations under this section, the Secretary
17 shall consider the adoption of industry con-
18 sensus standards.”.

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

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

22 “(4) ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF MAINTAINING
23 RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the review con-
25 ducted under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall
26 allow for an alternative method of maintaining

1 rights-of-way for pipelines and other pipeline facili-
2 ties under a voluntary program carried out by the
3 operator if such alternative method achieves a level
4 of safety at least equal to the level of safety required
5 by regulations issued under this chapter.

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

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

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

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

23 “(I) increasing mowing height;

24 “(II) reducing mowing frequency; and

1 “(III) refraining from mowing mon-
2 arch and other pollinator habitat during
3 periods in which monarchs or other polli-
4 nators are present;

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

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

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

19 “(vii) obtaining expert training or assist-
20 ance on wildlife and pollinator-friendly prac-
21 tices, including—

22 “(I) native plant identification;

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

1 “(III) land management practices;
2 and

3 “(IV) integrated vegetation manage-
4 ment.

5 “(C) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section
6 exempts an operator from compliance with the appli-
7 cable requirements under this chapter or any appli-
8 cable regulations promulgated under this chapter.

9 “(D) CONSULTATION.—

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

13 “(I) the Secretary; or

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

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

1 **SEC. 14. STUDY ON COMPOSITE MATERIALS FOR PIPE-**
2 **LINES.**

3 (a) STUDY ON USE OF COMPOSITE MATERIALS.—
4 Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of
5 this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall complete
6 a study assessing the potential and existing use of pipe-
7 lines constructed with composite materials to safely trans-
8 port hydrogen and hydrogen blended with natural gas.

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

11 (1) any commercially available composite pipe-
12 line materials;

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

16 (3) any recommended standards, including con-
17 sensus standards, and Federal agency authorizations
18 relating to use of composite pipeline materials.

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

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

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

4 (3) address any substantive comments sub-
5 mitted by the public during the public comment pe-
6 riod under paragraph (2) in preparing the final
7 study.

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

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

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

21 (a) FEDERAL SHARE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Competi-
23 tive Academic Agreement Program pursuant to sec-
24 tion 60117(l) of title 49, United States Code, the
25 Secretary of Transportation may allow for a 100-

1 percent Federal share of financial assistance for a
2 project carried out by small and mid-sized institu-
3 tions.

4 (2) WRITTEN REQUEST REQUIRED.—The Sec-
5 retary may only allow the use of a 100-percent Fed-
6 eral share under paragraph (1) if the applicable in-
7 stitution has provided a written request to the Sec-
8 retary prior to the award of Federal assistance
9 under such Program.

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

18 (b) REPORT.—Following any award of grants under
19 the Competitive Academic Agreement Program, the Sec-
20 retary shall provide to Congress a written report detail-
21 ing—

22 (1) the recipients of such grants; and

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

1 **SEC. 16. GEOHAZARD MITIGATION STUDY.**

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

5 (1) the results of a study that—

6 (A) evaluates Federal and State, as appli-
7 cable, requirements for gas, hazardous liquid,
8 and carbon dioxide pipeline facility design,
9 siting, construction, operation and maintenance,
10 and integrity management relating to
11 geohazards, including seismicity, land subsid-
12 ence, landslides, slope instability, frost heave,
13 soil settlement, erosion, river scour, washouts,
14 floods, unstable soil, water currents, hurricanes,
15 dynamic geologic conditions, tsunamis, tor-
16 nados, wildfires, floods, ice storms, or other
17 hazards that may cause a pipeline to move or
18 be affected by abnormal external loads;

19 (B) evaluates any industry consensus
20 standards or best practices related to the re-
21 quirements described in subparagraph (A);

22 (C) evaluates the implementation by opera-
23 tors of Federal and State regulations related to
24 geohazards and application of recommendations
25 included in the Advisory Bulletin of the Pipeline
26 and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

1 titled “Pipeline Safety: Potential for Damage to
2 Pipeline Facilities Caused by Earth Movement
3 and Other Geological Hazards”, issued on May
4 2, 2019 (PHMSA–2019–0087);

5 (D) identifies any discrepancies in the re-
6 quirements described in subparagraph (A) and
7 advisories, industry consensus standards, or
8 best practices for operators of gas, hazardous
9 liquid, and carbon dioxide pipeline facilities;
10 and

11 (E) identifies any areas relating to
12 geohazards not addressed under subparagraphs
13 (A) through (D); and

14 (2) any recommendations of the Government
15 Accountability Office based on the results of the
16 study under paragraph (1).

17 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Upon completion of the
18 report under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall
19 submit to the Secretary of Transportation, the Committee
20 on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee
21 on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representa-
22 tives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
23 Transportation of the Senate the report.

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

2 (a) COMPLIANCE AND WAIVERS.—Section
3 60118(c)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended
4 by adding at the end the following:

5 “(C) LIMITATION ON TERMS.—The Sec-
6 retary shall impose no terms on a waiver under
7 this paragraph that do not apply to known
8 pipeline safety risks applicable to the standard
9 being waived under subparagraph (A).

10 “(D) PUBLICATION.—Upon completion of
11 the application requirements under section
12 190.341 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-
13 tions, or successor regulations, the Secretary
14 shall publish notice of the application in the
15 Federal Register.

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

22 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
25 Transportation shall submit to the Committee on
26 Transportation and Infrastructure and Committee

1 on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce,
3 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
4 on the implementation by the Administrator of the
5 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Adminis-
6 tration of the amendment made by subsection (a).

7 (2) CONTENTS.—The report required under
8 paragraph (1) shall include—

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

12 (B) a brief summary of the purpose of
13 each such special permit;

14 (C) the date on which each such applica-
15 tion was received;

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

19 (E) the date on which the Secretary issued
20 a determination on the application; and

21 (F) the explanation of the Secretary for
22 any decision made outside the review period
23 identified in section 60118(c)(1)(E) of title 49,
24 United States Code, if applicable.

1 (c) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
2 submission of the report under subsection (b), the Comp-
3 troller General of the United States shall submit to the
4 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the
5 Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of
6 Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
7 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report assess-
8 ing the Secretary’s implementation of, and compliance
9 with, subparagraphs (C) through (E) of section
10 60118(c)(1) of title 49, United States Code.

11 **SEC. 18. EXCAVATION DAMAGE PREVENTION.**

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

14 (1) in subsection (b) by inserting “adoption or
15 progress toward adoption of the leading practices
16 listed in subsection (b) and” before “legislative and
17 regulatory”;

18 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
19 subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

20 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
21 lowing:

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

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

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

7 “(3) examine and limit exemptions to one-call
8 programs to prevent common excavation damage in-
9 cidents, including—

10 “(A) excavation or demolition performed
11 by the owner of a single-family residential prop-
12 erty;

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

15 “(C) repairing, connecting, adjusting, or
16 conducting routine maintenance of a private or
17 public underground utility facility; and

18 “(D) for municipalities, public works orga-
19 nizations, and State departments of transpor-
20 tation for road maintenance;

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

24 “(5) specify emergency excavation notification
25 requirements, including defining emergency exca-

1 vation and identifying the notification requirements
2 for an emergency excavation;

3 “(6) specify the responsibilities of the exca-
4 vator, including the reporting of damages due to ex-
5 cavation activities;

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

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

11 “(9) require a positive response, such as the
12 utility, municipality, or other entity placing the
13 marks positively responds to the notification center
14 and the excavator checks for a positive response be-
15 fore beginning excavation;

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

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

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

1 “(13) require training for locate professionals;
2 and

3 “(14) require the use of commercially available
4 technologies to locate underground facilities, such as
5 geographic information systems and enhanced posi-
6 tive response.

7 “(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

8 “(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 3 years
9 after the implementation of subsection (b), the Sec-
10 retary shall submit to the Committee on Transpor-
11 tation and Infrastructure and the Committee on En-
12 ergy and Commerce of the House of Representatives
13 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
14 Transportation of the Senate a report detailing—

15 “(A) the implementation of the leading
16 practices described in such subsection;

17 “(B) recommendations to increase the
18 adoption of such leading practices and rec-
19 ommendations for the reduction of excavation
20 damage incidents; and

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

24 “(2) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—Not later than
25 once every 2 years after the submittal of the report

1 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to
2 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
3 and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the
4 House of Representatives and the Committee on
5 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
6 ate a report detailing—

7 “(A) the implementation of the leading
8 practices described in subsection (b);

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

13 “(C) the number of underground facility
14 damages per 1,000 one-call tickets in each state
15 for each year covered by the report.”; and

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

17 “(f) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall
18 make a grant award to a State by the Secretary pursuant
19 to section 60107 or section 60134 for a State program
20 certified under section 60105 or section 60106 contingent
21 on compliance by the State with all leading practices de-
22 scribed in subsection (b).”.

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

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

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

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

5 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In evaluating criteria
6 for determining the effectiveness of the damage pre-
7 vention program of a State, the Secretary shall con-
8 sider whether the State has, at a minimum—

9 “(A) effective, active, and consistent en-
10 forcement of State one-call laws (including con-
11 sistency in the application of enforcement re-
12 sources, fines, and penalties to all relevant
13 stakeholders, such as operators, locators, and
14 excavators);

15 “(B) data reporting requirements such as
16 those—

17 “(i) to the local one-call center for ex-
18 cavation damage events on pipelines and
19 other underground facilities, that are not
20 privately owned, including (if available at
21 the time of reporting)—

22 “(I) information about the nature
23 of the incident, including the facility
24 damaged and the apparent cause of

1 such damage (with supporting docu-
2 mentation);

3 “(II) the organizations or entities
4 involved;

5 “(III) the impact to public safe-
6 ty, utility operations, and customer
7 service; and

8 “(IV) the impact to the environ-
9 ment; and

10 “(ii) to a nationally focused nonprofit
11 organization specifically established for the
12 purpose of reducing construction-related
13 damages to underground facilities, of dam-
14 ages and near-miss events to underground
15 facilities from excavation damages, includ-
16 ing potential contributing factors, facility
17 damaged, type of excavator, work per-
18 formed, equipment type, and State;

19 “(C) data reporting requirements, to a
20 nonprofit organization specifically established
21 for the purpose of reducing construction-related
22 damage to underground facilities, of damage
23 and near-miss events to underground facilities
24 from excavation damage, including root cause,

1 facility damaged, type of excavator, work per-
2 formed, equipment type, and State; and

3 “(D) performance measures to determine
4 the effectiveness of excavation damage preven-
5 tion efforts.”.

6 **SEC. 19. INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT STUDY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-
9 tation shall enter into an agreement with the National
10 Academies under which the National Academies shall con-
11 duct a study of the effectiveness of integrity management
12 regulations applicable to natural gas and hazardous liquid
13 pipeline facilities.

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

16 (1) use publicly available data from the Pipeline
17 and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration,
18 State pipeline regulatory agencies, and other public
19 sources; and

20 (2) consult with pipeline stakeholders in the de-
21 velopment of findings under the study, including
22 State and Federal regulators, pipeline operators,
23 Tribal and local governments, public safety organiza-
24 tions, and environmental organizations.

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

3 (1) a review of previous assessments of integrity
4 management program implementation produced by
5 or for the Secretary or the National Transportation
6 Safety Board;

7 (2) a review of the implementation and enforce-
8 ment by the Secretary of integrity management reg-
9 ulations and any modifications of the regulations
10 issued by the Secretary pursuant to section 60109 of
11 title 49, United States Code;

12 (3) a trend analysis and assessment of pipeline
13 safety incidents, accidents, and repairs for high con-
14 sequence and non-high consequence areas, including
15 comparing—

16 (A) the frequency of such incidents, acci-
17 dents, and repairs before and after the imple-
18 mentation of the Federal integrity management
19 requirements described in subsection (a); and

20 (B) the frequency of such incidents, acci-
21 dents, and repairs during the period of time
22 such integrity management requirements have
23 been in effect;

1 (4) development of metrics to gauge the effec-
2 tiveness of the implementation and enforcement of
3 such integrity management regulations;

4 (5) an assessment of how integrity management
5 informs operator activities, including planning and
6 completion of repairs, and whether the implementa-
7 tion of integrity management regulations by opera-
8 tors of pipeline facilities has had a demonstrable ef-
9 fect on improving gas and hazardous liquid pipeline
10 safety; and

11 (6) identification of areas where pipeline safety
12 has improved and where it has not improved due to
13 integrity management.

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

15 (1) require the National Academies to submit to
16 the Secretary a report on the results of the study
17 under subsection (a); and

18 (2) not later than 2 years after the date of en-
19 actment of this Act, submit to the Committee on
20 Transportation and Infrastructure and the Com-
21 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of
22 Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
23 Science, and Transportation of the Senate such re-
24 port.

1 **SEC. 20. HYDROGEN STUDY.**

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

8 (1) modifications or alternatives to—

9 (A) odorants and leak-detection methods;

10 (B) pipeline materials; and

11 (C) operational standards; and

12 (2) modifications to pipeline infrastructure.

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

15 (1) an identification of any technical challenges
16 with repurposing existing natural gas infrastructure
17 to allow such infrastructure to be used for hydrogen-
18 natural gas blended service; and

19 (2) an examination of hydrogen-natural gas
20 blended pipeline systems currently operating, includ-
21 ing in the United States, the United Kingdom, Can-
22 ada, Europe, Australia, and Hong Kong.

23 (c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study
24 under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall con-
25 sider—

1 (1) any changes that domestic and international
2 operators of natural gas pipeline systems have im-
3 plemented to the processes, pipeline materials, me-
4 tering, and operational standards used by such oper-
5 ators to account for the operation and integrity of
6 natural gas pipeline systems that use a hydrogen
7 content at variable percentages above 5 percent by
8 volume; and

9 (2) how such operators have taken into account
10 the effects of hydrogen-natural gas blending on dif-
11 ferent types of—

12 (A) natural gas pipeline systems materials,
13 including cast iron, steel, composite pipe, and
14 plastic pipe; and

15 (B) components of such systems, including
16 valves and meters.

17 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
18 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
19 submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
20 structure 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 report on the results of the study conducted under sub-
24 section (a).

1 (e) RULEMAKING.—The results of the study under
2 subsection (a) should inform the rulemaking efforts of the
3 Secretary relating to hydrogen-natural gas blending. The
4 Secretary may determine that rulemaking efforts related
5 to hydrogen should be advanced before completion of the
6 study under subsection (a).

7 (f) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
8 section shall be construed to prohibit or otherwise limit
9 the authority of the Secretary to issue regulations relating
10 to hydrogen prior to the submission of the report under
11 subsection (d).

12 **SEC. 21. PENALTY FOR CAUSING A DEFECT IN OR DIS-**
13 **RUPTING OPERATION OF PIPELINE INFRA-**
14 **STRUCTURE.**

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

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

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

23 “(A) causes a defect in a pipe, pump, com-
24 pressor, or valve in the possession of a pipeline
25 operator to be used in construction of any pipe-

1 line facility described in subsection (b) that
2 would affect the integrity or safe operation of
3 any such facility; or

4 “(B) disrupts the operation of any pipeline
5 facility described in subsection (b) by causing
6 or undertaking the unauthorized or unplanned
7 turning or manipulation of a valve.

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

12 “(A) in transit to a pipeline component
13 staging site or construction site;

14 “(B) at a pipeline component staging site;
15 or

16 “(C) at a construction site.”.

17 **SEC. 22. CIVIL PENALTIES.**

18 Section 60122(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code,
19 is amended by striking “\$2,000,000” and inserting
20 “\$3,412,000”.

21 **SEC. 23. LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS REGULATORY COORDI-**
22 **NATION.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The Secretary
24 of Transportation shall establish and convene a Liquefied
25 Natural Gas Regulatory Safety Working Group (in this

1 section referred to as the “Working Group”) through the
2 National Center of Excellence for Liquefied Natural Gas
3 Safety to clarify the authority of Federal agencies in the
4 authorizing and oversight of LNG facilities, other than
5 peak shaving facilities, and improve coordination of the
6 authority of such agencies.

7 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall
9 consist of certain representatives of the Federal gov-
10 ernment, as such term is defined in clauses (i)
11 through (v) of section 111(a)(3)(F) of the PIPES
12 Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–260), as designated
13 by the Secretary of Transportation or appropriate
14 Federal agency leadership.

15 (2) CHAIR.—The Administrator of the Pipeline
16 and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration or a
17 designee of the Administrator shall serve as chair of
18 the Working Group, unless an alternate member of
19 the working group is selected by unanimous consent
20 of the Working Group.

21 (3) RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHAIR.—The Chair
22 of the Working Group shall establish an agenda and
23 schedule for the Working Group to accomplish the
24 objectives described in subsection (c).

25 (c) EVALUATION.—

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

6 (2) NEGOTIATION.—The Working Group shall
7 negotiate Federal agency agreements pursuant to
8 subsection (d) to establish procedures for—

9 (A) the application of the respective au-
10 thorities of each Federal agency in ensuring
11 safety in a manner to ensure effective regula-
12 tion of LNG facilities in the public interest;

13 (B) resolving conflicts concerning overlap-
14 ping jurisdiction among the Federal agencies;
15 and

16 (C) avoiding, to the extent possible and if
17 appropriate, conflicting or duplicative regula-
18 tion, inspection protocols, and reporting obliga-
19 tions.

20 (d) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND INTER-
21 AGENCY AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 2 years after the
22 date of enactment of this Act, the agencies represented
23 on the Working Group shall enter into interagency agree-
24 ments or memorandums of understanding regarding best
25 practices and individual agency safety oversight enforce-

1 ment responsibilities regarding LNG facilities, other than
2 peak shaving facilities.

3 (e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
4 after entering into interagency agency agreements or
5 memorandum of understanding under subsection (d), the
6 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transpor-
7 tation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Energy
8 and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the
9 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
10 the Senate a report on the memorandum of understanding
11 or interagency agreements and how such memorandum or
12 agreements have contributed to improved safety and en-
13 forcement oversight coordination of LNG facilities.

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

16 **SEC. 24. PIPELINE SAFETY VOLUNTARY INFORMATION-**
17 **SHARING SYSTEM.**

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

21 **“§ 60145. Voluntary information-sharing system**

22 **“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—**

23 **“(1) IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary shall estab-
24 **lish a confidential voluntary information-sharing sys-**
25 **tem (referred to in this section as ‘VIS’) to encour-**

1 age the sharing of pipeline safety data and informa-
2 tion in a non-punitive context in order to improve
3 the safety of gas, carbon dioxide, and hazardous liq-
4 uid gathering, transmission, and distribution pipe-
5 lines and facilities, including storage facilities.

6 “(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the VIS is to
7 establish a comprehensive, systematic, and inte-
8 grated structure to gather, evaluate, and quantify
9 critical pipeline safety data and information and to
10 share recommended remediation measures and les-
11 sons learned across the pipeline industry in an effort
12 to improve pipeline safety, including damage preven-
13 tion efforts, while protecting participant confiden-
14 tiality.

15 “(3) IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT.—In
16 establishing the VIS under this section, the Sec-
17 retary shall implement and manage such VIS based
18 on the Pipeline Safety Voluntary Information-Shar-
19 ing System Recommendation Report prepared pur-
20 suant to section 10 of the Protecting Our Infra-
21 structure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of
22 2016 (49 U.S.C. 60108 note).

23 “(4) INAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The VIS
24 shall not be considered a Federal advisory committee

1 and shall not be subject to the requirements of chap-
2 ter 10 of title 5.

3 “(b) GOVERNANCE.—

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

7 “(2) GOVERNING BOARD.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
9 days after the date of enactment of this section,
10 the Administrator of the Pipeline and Haz-
11 ardous Materials Safety Administration shall
12 appoint a Governing Board after consulting
13 with public and private pipeline safety stake-
14 holders.

15 “(B) COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD.—The
16 Governing Board shall be comprised of at least
17 9 members and shall represent a balanced
18 cross-section of pipeline safety stakeholders
19 with pipeline safety knowledge or experience as
20 follows:

21 “(i) At least 3 individuals shall be se-
22 lected from departments, agencies, instru-
23 mentalities of the Federal Government,
24 Territories or Tribal governments, State

1 governments, or local governments, 1 of
2 which shall be the Administrator.

3 “(ii) At least 3 individuals shall be se-
4 lected from the gas, carbon dioxide, or haz-
5 ardous liquid industries, such as operators,
6 trade associations, inspection technology,
7 coating, and cathodic protection vendors,
8 and pipeline inspection organizations.

9 “(iii) At least 3 individuals shall be
10 selected from public safety advocate orga-
11 nizations, such as pipeline safety and envi-
12 ronmental advocacy groups, public safety-
13 focused research institutions, or labor and
14 worker safety representatives.

15 “(C) BOARD TERMS.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Each member of
17 the Governing Board shall be appointed for
18 a term of 3 years, with the terms of 3 of
19 the members expiring each year.

20 “(ii) TERM EXPIRATION.—The term
21 of at least 1 member of each of the 3
22 stakeholder groups established in subpara-
23 graph (B) shall expire each year.

24 “(iii) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—In the
25 initial appointment of members, terms of

1 1, 2, and 3 years shall be established to
2 allow the terms of 3 members to expire
3 thereafter each year.

4 “(iv) REAPPOINTMENT.—Each mem-
5 ber may be reappointed for consecutive 3-
6 year terms.

7 “(D) CO-CHAIRS.—

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

10 “(I) the Administrator;

11 “(II) a representative of the
12 stakeholder group described in sub-
13 paragraph (B)(ii), who shall be ap-
14 pointed with advice and consent of the
15 Governing Board; and

16 “(III) a representative of the
17 stakeholder group described in sub-
18 paragraph (B)(iii), who shall be ap-
19 pointed with advice and consent of the
20 Governing Board.

21 “(ii) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The co-
22 chairs of the Governing Board shall be
23 jointly responsible for organizing and con-
24 ducting meetings of the Governing Board.

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

5 “(i) govern and provide strategic over-
6 sight to the VIS;

7 “(ii) develop governance documents,
8 including a Governing Board charter that
9 is made available to the public, and that
10 describes the scope of the authority and
11 objectives of the Board;

12 “(iii) select a Third-Party Data Man-
13 ager described in paragraph (4) with ex-
14 pertise in data protection, aggregation, and
15 analytics and geographic information sys-
16 tems;

17 “(iv) approve the criteria and proce-
18 dures governing how the Third-Party Data
19 Manager described in paragraph (4) will
20 receive and accept pipeline safety data and
21 information and who will have the author-
22 ity to view VIS data;

23 “(v) establish and appoint members to
24 Issue Analysis Teams described in para-

1 graph (5) that consist of technical and
2 subject matter experts;

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

6 “(vii) collaborate with Issue Analysis
7 Teams described in paragraph (5) to speci-
8 fy the type of de-identified pipeline safety
9 data and information that Issue Analysis
10 Teams need in order to analyze the issues
11 identified under clause (vi) and topics;

12 “(viii) determine the information to be
13 disseminated;

14 “(ix) determine the reports to be dis-
15 seminated;

16 “(x) at least once per year, issue a re-
17 port to the public on VIS processes, mem-
18 bership of the Governing Board, issues or
19 topics being investigated and analyzed,
20 pipeline safety data and information that
21 the VIS has requested for submission to
22 the VIS, and safety trends identified; and

23 “(xi) perform other functions as the
24 Governing Board decides are necessary or

1 appropriate consistent with the purpose of
2 the VIS.

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

8 “(4) THIRD-PARTY DATA MANAGER.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A Third-Party Data
10 Manager shall provide data management and
11 data oversight services for the VIS.

12 “(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In fulfilling the
13 responsibilities described in subparagraph (A),
14 the Third-Party Data Manager shall—

15 “(i) accept pipeline safety data and
16 information submitted to the VIS that
17 meets the criteria and procedures estab-
18 lished by the Governing Board under para-
19 graph (2)(E)(iv);

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

23 “(iii) collaborate with Issue Analysis
24 Teams described in paragraph (5) to ag-
25 gregate and analyze de-identified pipeline

1 safety data and information that is accept-
2 ed by the VIS;

3 “(iv) prepare reports as requested by
4 the Governing Board regarding the type of
5 pipeline safety data and information that
6 is managed by the VIS; and

7 “(v) make recommendations regarding
8 the management of pipeline safety data
9 and information, as appropriate.

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

12 “(A) work with the Third-Party Data
13 Manager described in paragraph (4) to aggre-
14 gate and analyze de-identified pipeline safety
15 data and information accepted by the VIS;

16 “(B) collaborate with the Governing Board
17 to identify issues and topics for analysis and
18 submit internal reports and recommendations to
19 the Governing Board; and

20 “(C) prepare reports as requested by the
21 Governing Board regarding issues and topics
22 identified for additional research by the Gov-
23 erning Board.

24 “(6) PARTICIPATION.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The submission of
2 pipeline safety data and information to the VIS
3 by any person shall be voluntary, with no per-
4 son compelled to participate in or submit data
5 or information for inclusion in the VIS.

6 “(B) ACCEPTANCE OF INFORMATION.—
7 The VIS shall implement policies to ensure that
8 all operator data or information submitted has
9 been authorized by the operator for submission.

10 “(C) SHARING OF INFORMATION.—The
11 Governing Board shall encourage the voluntary
12 sharing of pipeline safety data and information
13 among operators of gas, carbon dioxide, and
14 hazardous liquid gathering, transmission, and
15 distribution pipelines and facilities, employees,
16 labor unions, contractors, in-line inspection
17 service providers, non-destructive evaluation ex-
18 perts, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
19 Safety Administration, representatives of State
20 pipeline safety agencies, local and Tribal gov-
21 ernments, pipeline safety advocacy groups,
22 manufacturers, research and academic institu-
23 tions, and other pipeline stakeholders.

24 “(c) INFORMATION SHARING.—

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

3 “(A) pipeline integrity risk analysis infor-
4 mation;

5 “(B) lessons learned from accidents and
6 near misses;

7 “(C) process improvements;

8 “(D) technology deployment practices;

9 “(E) information obtained through VIS
10 pipeline safety surveys of pipeline operator em-
11 ployees, as long as such surveys are voluntarily
12 agreed to by the pipeline operator; and

13 “(F) pipeline safety data and information
14 which may lead to the identification of pipeline
15 safety risks.

16 “(d) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

18 “(A) CONFIDENTIALITY.—To facilitate the
19 sharing of otherwise non-public pipeline safety
20 data and information (hereinafter known as
21 ‘non-public information’) in the VIS, non-public
22 information accepted by the VIS and which
23 may be analyzed, stored, or managed by the
24 VIS shall be kept confidential by the VIS.

1 “(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subpara-
2 graph (A) shall not be construed to apply to
3 public information that may be submitted to the
4 VIS or to non-public information that is re-
5 quired to be submitted to any Federal, State,
6 local, or Tribal agency under any other provi-
7 sion of law.

8 “(2) DISCLOSURE OF DE-IDENTIFIED, NON-
9 PUBLIC INFORMATION.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sub-
11 sections (e) and (f), the Governing Board may
12 approve the disclosure of de-identified, non-pub-
13 lic information by the VIS or by the Adminis-
14 trator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
15 Safety Administration based on analysis of the
16 de-identified information and any safety find-
17 ings or recommendations that the Governing
18 Board in the sole discretion of the Board deter-
19 mines to publish or authorizes the Adminis-
20 trator to publish to improve pipeline safety.

21 “(B) PUBLIC REPORTS.—In issuing public
22 reports under subsection (b)(2)(E)(x), the Gov-
23 erning Board shall approve the disclosure of de-
24 identified, non-public information by the VIS
25 that the Governing Board determines is nec-

1 essary to adequately describe and illustrate the
2 issues and topics being investigated and ana-
3 lyzed by the VIS.

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

16 “(e) APPLICABILITY OF FOIA.—Any non-public in-
17 formation that is accepted by the VIS and which may be
18 analyzed, stored, or managed by the VIS and subsequently
19 obtained by the Secretary or the Administrator by virtue
20 of the acceptance of such information to the VIS shall be
21 exempt from the requirements of section 552 of title 5
22 and specifically exempt from release under subsection
23 (b)(3) of such section.

24 “(f) EXCLUSIONS.—

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

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

9 “(B) to initiate any enforcement action or
10 civil litigation against a pipeline operator or
11 employees or contractors of such operator relat-
12 ing to a probable violation under this chapter
13 (including any regulation promulgated or order
14 issued under this chapter).

15 “(2) EXCLUSION FROM DISCOVERY.—Except as
16 provided in paragraph (3), non-public information
17 accepted by the VIS and which may be analyzed,
18 stored, or managed by the VIS shall not be subject
19 to discovery from the VIS in any Federal, State,
20 local, Tribal, or private litigation or other pro-
21 ceeding.

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

1 “(A) evidence of a criminal violation;

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

4 “(C) otherwise required to be reported to
5 the Secretary under part 191 (including infor-
6 mation about an incident or accident), part
7 192, part 194, part 195, or part 199 of title
8 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor
9 regulations), or required to be reported under
10 the requirements of a State authority; or

11 “(D) developed or obtained from a source
12 other than the VIS, including through discovery
13 from a person or an entity other than the VIS
14 in an enforcement action or private litigation.

15 “(4) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS ON EXCLU-
16 SIONS.—The exclusions described in paragraphs (1)
17 and (2) shall not apply to non-public information
18 that is submitted to but not accepted by the VIS.

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

22 “(h) NO EFFECT ON DISCOVERY.—

23 “(1) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
24 this section or any rule, regulation, or amendment
25 issued pursuant to this section shall be construed to

1 create a defense to a discovery request or otherwise
2 limit or affect the discovery of pipeline safety data
3 and information arising from a cause of action au-
4 thorized under any Federal, State, Tribal, or local
5 law.

6 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
7 apply to exclusions from discovery from the VIS as
8 described in subsection (f)(2).

9 “(i) EXPENSES.—

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

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

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

21 “(j) REPORT ON VIS.—Not later than 2 years after
22 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall
23 submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
24 structure and the Committee on Energy and Commerce
25 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on

1 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate,
2 and make publicly available, a report that includes—

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

5 “(2) an estimate of the annual cost to maintain
6 the VIS program, including an assessment and pro-
7 jection of costs associated with the Third-Party
8 Data Manager, data sourcing and storage, data gov-
9 ernance, data architecture, data consumption, and
10 the VIS operations and administration by the Pipe-
11 line and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration;

12 “(3) the methodology for determining the esti-
13 mate under paragraph (2);

14 “(4) the number of expected participants in the
15 VIS program;

16 “(5) the number of Pipeline and Hazardous
17 Materials Safety Administration positions needed to
18 maintain the VIS program;

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

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

1 “(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated for the establishment
3 of a voluntary information-sharing program under this
4 section—

5 “(1) \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

6 “(2) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

7 “(3) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

8 “(4) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.”.

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

“60145.Voluntary information-sharing system.”.

12 **SEC. 25. CARBON DIOXIDE PIPELINES.**

13 (a) PURPOSE AND GENERAL AUTHORITY.—Section
14 60102 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (1)(B)(i) by inserting

17 “or carbon dioxide” after “hazardous liquids”;

18 and

19 (B) in paragraph (2)(A)—

20 (i) by redesignating clause (ii) and

21 (iii) as clause (iii) and (iv), respectively;

22 and

23 (ii) by inserting after clause (i) the

24 following:

1 “(ii) carbon dioxide pipeline safety in-
2 formation;”;

3 (2) in subsection (c) by inserting “or carbon di-
4 oxide pipeline facility” after “hazardous liquid pipe-
5 line facility”;

6 (3) in subsection (d)(2)—

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

9 (B) in subparagraph (B) by striking the
10 semicolon and inserting “; and”; and

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

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

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

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

22 (6) in subsection (i)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “regulate
24 carbon dioxide” and all that follows through
25 “by such a facility” and inserting “prescribe

1 standards related to pipeline facilities to ensure
2 the safe transportation of carbon dioxide in a
3 liquid or supercritical state by such facilities”;

4 (B) by striking paragraph (2)(B) and in-
5 serting the following:

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

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

13 (D) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
14 paragraph (4);

15 (E) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
16 following:

17 “(3) STORAGE OF CARBON DIOXIDE.—

18 “(A) MINIMUM SAFETY STANDARDS.—The
19 Secretary shall prescribe minimum safety
20 standards for the injection, withdrawal, and
21 storage of carbon dioxide incidental to pipeline
22 transportation.

23 “(B) STORAGE OF CARBON DIOXIDE INCI-
24 DENTAL TO PIPELINE TRANSPORTATION.—In

1 this paragraph, the term ‘storage of carbon di-
2 oxide incidental to pipeline transportation’—

3 “(i) means the temporary receipt and
4 storage of carbon dioxide transported by
5 pipeline for continued transport; but

6 “(ii) does not include—

7 “(I) with respect to each State,
8 the long-term containment of carbon
9 dioxide in subsurface geologic forma-
10 tions or other activity subject to the
11 requirements of a State underground
12 injection control program prescribed
13 by the Administrator of the Environ-
14 mental Protection Agency and appli-
15 cable to the State, or adopted by the
16 State and approved by the Adminis-
17 trator, under part C of the Safe
18 Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300h
19 et seq.); or

20 “(II) the temporary storage of
21 carbon dioxide in any excepted pipe-
22 lines listed in paragraph (b) of section
23 195.1 of title 49, Code of Federal
24 Regulations, as of the date of enact-

1 ment of the PIPES Act of 2025.”;

2 and

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

4 “(5) DISPERSION MODELING.—

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

14 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In performing
15 the vapor dispersion modeling under subpara-
16 graph (A), operators of a carbon dioxide pipe-
17 line facility shall consider—

18 “(i) the topography surrounding the
19 pipeline;

20 “(ii) atmospheric conditions that
21 could affect vapor dispersion;

22 “(iii) pipeline operating characteris-
23 tics; and

1 “(iv) additional substances present in
2 the pipeline that could affect vapor disper-
3 sion.

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

13 “(D) PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE INFOR-
14 MATION.—In responding to a public request for
15 information regarding carbon dioxide dispersion
16 modeling, the Secretary may, taking into ac-
17 count public safety, security, and the need for
18 public access, exclude from disclosure (as the
19 Secretary determines appropriate)—

20 “(i) security sensitive information re-
21 lated to strategies for responding to worst-
22 case carbon dioxide release scenarios;

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

1 “(iii) security sensitive information re-
2 lated to plans for responding to a carbon
3 dioxide release.

4 “(E) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Noth-
5 ing in this section may be construed to require
6 disclosure of information or records that are ex-
7 empt from disclosure under section 552 of title
8 5.”.

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

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

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

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

7 (1) in subsection (a)(1) by striking “gas pipe-
8 line facility or hazardous liquid pipeline facility” and
9 inserting “gas pipeline facility, hazardous liquid
10 pipeline facility, or carbon dioxide pipeline facility”;
11 and

12 (2) in subsection (e)(1) by striking “gas or haz-
13 ardous liquid pipeline facility” and inserting “gas
14 pipeline facility, hazardous liquid pipeline facility, or
15 carbon dioxide pipeline facility”.

16 (f) HIGH-DENSITY POPULATION AREAS AND ENVI-
17 RONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS.—Section 60109 of title
18 49, United States Code, is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)(1)(B)—

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

22 (B) by inserting “and carbon dioxide”
23 after “each hazardous liquid” each place it ap-
24 pears; and

1 (C) in clause (ii) by inserting “or carbon
2 dioxide” after “there is a hazardous liquid”;
3 and

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

6 (3) in subsection (g)—

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

9 (B) in paragraph (2) by inserting “or car-
10 bon dioxide” after “underwater hazardous liq-
11 uid”.

12 (g) TECHNICAL SAFETY STANDARDS COMMIT-
13 TEES.—Section 60115 of title 49, United States Code, is
14 amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b)(2)—

16 (A) by striking “transporting hazardous
17 liquid or operating a hazardous liquid pipeline
18 facility” and inserting “transporting hazardous
19 liquid, transporting carbon dioxide, operating a
20 hazardous liquid pipeline facility, or operating a
21 carbon dioxide pipeline facility” each place it
22 appears; and

23 (B) by striking “transporting hazardous
24 liquid and of hazardous liquid pipeline facili-
25 ties” and inserting “transporting hazardous liq-

1 uid or transporting carbon dioxide and of haz-
2 ardous liquid pipeline facilities or carbon diox-
3 ide pipeline facilities”;

4 (2) in subsection (b)(3)(B) by striking “the
5 natural gas or hazardous liquid industry” and in-
6 serting “the natural gas industry, the hazardous liq-
7 uid industry, or the carbon dioxide industry”;

8 (3) in subsection (b)(4)(B) by striking “natural
9 gas pipelines or hazardous liquid pipeline facilities”
10 and inserting “natural gas pipelines, hazardous liq-
11 uid pipeline facilities, or carbon dioxide pipeline fa-
12 cilities”;

13 (4) in subsection (c)(1)(B) by striking “trans-
14 porting hazardous liquid and for hazardous liquid
15 pipeline facilities” and inserting “transporting car-
16 bon dioxide, hazardous liquid pipeline facilities and
17 carbon dioxide facilities”; and

18 (5) in subsection (d)(1) by striking “trans-
19 porting hazardous liquid and for hazardous liquid
20 pipeline facilities” and inserting “transporting haz-
21 ardous liquid, transporting carbon dioxide, haz-
22 ardous liquid pipeline facilities, and carbon dioxide
23 pipeline facilities”.

24 (h) PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—Section 60116
25 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking

1 “gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facility” and inserting
2 “gas pipeline facility, hazardous liquid pipeline facility, or
3 carbon dioxide pipeline facility” each place that it appears.

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

6 (1) in subsection (o)(1)—

7 (A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “liq-
8 uid pipeline facility or liquefied natural gas
9 pipeline facility” and inserting “liquid pipeline
10 facility, a liquefied natural gas pipeline facility,
11 or a carbon dioxide pipeline facility”; and

12 (B) in subparagraph (B)(i)(II) by inserting
13 “or carbon dioxide pipeline facility” after “haz-
14 arduous liquid pipeline facility”; and

15 (2) in subsection (p)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “gas or
17 hazardous liquid pipeline facilities” and insert-
18 ing “gas pipeline facilities, hazardous liquid
19 pipeline facilities, or carbon dioxide pipeline fa-
20 cilities”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (8) by striking “gas or
22 hazardous liquid pipeline facility” and inserting
23 “gas pipeline facility, hazardous liquid pipeline
24 facility, or carbon dioxide pipeline facility”.

1 (j) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Section 60123(b) of title
2 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “an inter-
3 state hazardous liquid pipeline facility, or either an intra-
4 state gas pipeline facility or intrastate hazardous liquid
5 pipeline facility” and inserting “an interstate hazardous
6 liquid pipeline facility, an interstate carbon dioxide pipe-
7 line facility, or either an intrastate gas pipeline facility,
8 an intrastate hazardous liquid pipeline facility, or an
9 intrastate carbon dioxide facility”.

10 (k) EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS.—Section
11 60125(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended
12 by striking “gas or hazardous liquid pipelines” and insert-
13 ing “gas pipelines, hazardous liquid pipelines, or carbon
14 dioxide pipelines”.

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

22 (m) VERIFICATION OF PIPELINE QUALIFICATION
23 PROGRAMS.—Section 60131(g) of title 49, United States
24 Code, is amended—

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

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

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

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

10 (n) ENFORCEMENT TRANSPARENCY.—Section
11 60135(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended
12 by striking “gas and hazardous liquid pipeline” and in-
13 serting “gas, hazardous liquid, and carbon dioxide pipe-
14 line”.

15 (o) PIPELINE CONTROL ROOM MANAGEMENT.—Sec-
16 tion 60137 and title 49, United States Code, is amend-
17 ed—

18 (1) in subsection (a) by striking “gas or haz-
19 ardous liquid pipeline” and inserting “gas, haz-
20 ardous liquid, or carbon dioxide pipeline”;

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

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

4 (p) PIPELINE SAFETY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS.—
5 Section 60142 of title 49, United States Code, is amend-
6 ed—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “or” at
9 the end;

10 (B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
11 paragraph (3); and

12 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
13 following:

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

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

20 (3) in subsection (l)(1) by striking “interstate
21 gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facilities” and in-
22 serting “interstate gas pipeline facilities, interstate
23 hazardous liquid pipeline facilities, or interstate car-
24 bon dioxide pipeline facilities”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (3) in subsection (d)(1)—

20 (A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and”
21 at the end; and

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

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

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

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

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

6 (2) in subparagraph (J) by striking the period
7 and inserting “; and”; and

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

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

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

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

19 (b) PROTOCOLS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.—Not later
20 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the
21 Secretary of Transportation shall publish protocols for
22 hearings open to the public pursuant to section
23 60117(b)(2) of title 49, United States Code, that ensure
24 an orderly process and protection of confidential informa-
25 tion.

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

8 (1) the number of hearings held pursuant to
9 subparagraph (K) of section 60117(b)(1) of title 49,
10 United States Code;

11 (2) the status of each such hearing;

12 (3) an analysis comparing the informal hearing
13 process and the formal hearing process that de-
14 scribes—

15 (A) the length of time to resolve an en-
16 forcement action under section 60117 of title
17 49, United States Code;

18 (B) the cost of the enforcement action
19 process to—

20 (i) the respondent; and

21 (ii) the Pipeline and Hazardous Mate-
22 rials Safety Administration; and

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

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

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

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

9 Section 60107(b) of title 49, United States Code, is
10 amended—

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

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

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

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

21 “(B) the estimated funding necessary to
22 fund 80 percent of the cost of the personnel,
23 equipment, and activities under this section for
24 the subsequent calendar year.”.

1 **SEC. 28. DISCLOSURE OF SAFETY INFORMATION ASSESS-**
2 **MENT.**

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

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

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

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

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

23 (4) industry consensus standards regarding the
24 sharing of pipeline safety and emergency response
25 information;

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

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

14 (B) information emergency response orga-
15 nizations ask pipeline owners and operators to
16 voluntarily share with the public;

17 (6) emergency response materials that pipeline
18 facility owners and operators voluntarily provide to
19 emergency response organizations;

20 (7) how pipeline facility owners and operators
21 communicate with emergency response organiza-
22 tions, including—

23 (A) the functional quality and use of data
24 shared through the National Pipeline Mapping
25 System; and

1 (B) the measures taken by emergency re-
2 sponse organizations to secure any sensitive in-
3 formation shared;

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

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

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

18 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days
19 after completion of the assessment in subsection (a), the
20 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transpor-
21 tation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Energy
22 and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the
23 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
24 the Senate, a report containing the findings of the assess-

1 ment under subsection (a) and any legislative rec-
2 ommendations of the Secretary.

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

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

11 **SEC. 29. ASSESSMENT OF CERTAIN PIPELINE SAFETY DEFINI-**
12 **NITIONS.**

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

21 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the evalua-
22 tion under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider—
23 (1) whether to revise the definition of the occu-
24 pancy counts of these areas;

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

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

8 (A) safety; and

9 (B) the efficiency of carrying out class de-
10 terminations.

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

16 **SEC. 30. REPORT ASSESSING THE COSTS OF PIPELINE FAIL-**
17 **URES.**

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

1 down of a gas, hazardous liquid, or carbon dioxide pipeline
2 facility.

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

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

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

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

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

1 ments in responding to and mitigating the impacts
2 of a failure or shutdown of a gas, hazardous liquid,
3 or carbon dioxide pipeline facility;

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

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

10 (A) increases in product costs;

11 (B) damage to public and private property;

12 and

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

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

21 (c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under
22 subsection (a), the National Academies shall consult with
23 economists, State, Federal, local, and Tribal governments,
24 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
24 pressure reconfirmation regulations issued pursuant
25 to this section.”.