

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5537

To amend title 49, United States Code, to require the establishment of an Office of Public Engagement in the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

Mrs. TRAHAN (for herself and Ms. TLAIB) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to require the establishment of an Office of Public Engagement in the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, and for other purposes.

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

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

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Pipeline Accountability Act of 2025”.

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

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

TITLE I—SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS

Sec. 101. Factors for consideration in prescribing standards.
 Sec. 102. Cost-benefit analyses.
 Sec. 103. Technical safety standards committees.
 Sec. 104. Application of regulations to existing pipelines.
 Sec. 105. Rupture-mitigation valves on pipelines in high consequence areas.
 Sec. 106. Safety of carbon dioxide pipelines.
 Sec. 107. Blending in natural gas systems.
 Sec. 108. Extension and modification of Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program.
 Sec. 109. Rulemaking on underground natural gas storage.

TITLE II—PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

Sec. 201. Office of Public Engagement.
 Sec. 202. Public hearings on proposed rules.
 Sec. 203. Disclosure of safety data.
 Sec. 204. Reporting of blended products.
 Sec. 205. Incident reporting for gas pipelines.

TITLE III—ACCOUNTABILITY

Sec. 301. Prohibition against releases.
 Sec. 302. Actions by private persons.
 Sec. 303. Penalties.

3 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

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

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

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

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

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

6 (3) ENVIRONMENT.—The term “environment”
7 includes—

8 (A) water, air, and land; and

9 (B) the interrelationship that exists among
10 and between water, air, and land and all
11 present and future generations of living beings.

12 (4) ENVIRONMENTAL.—The term “environ-
13 mental” means relating to or concerning the envi-
14 ronment.

15 (5) INCIDENT.—The term “incident” has the
16 meaning given the term in section 191.3 of title 49,
17 Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regula-
18 tion).

19 (6) NATURAL GAS.—The term “natural gas”
20 has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the
21 Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717a).

22 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
23 the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the
24 Administrator of the Administration.

1 **TITLE I—SAFETY AND**
2 **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS**

3 **SEC. 101. FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRESCRIBING**
4 **STANDARDS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 60102(b)(2) of title 49,
6 United States Code, is amended—

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

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

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

12 “(H) the need to mitigate negative impacts
13 to the global climate and avoid unnecessarily
14 prolonging the life span of fossil fuel infrastruc-
15 ture; and

16 “(I) transition plans toward non-emitting
17 alternatives.”.

18 (b) DEFINITION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 60101(a) of title 49,
20 United States Code, is amended—

21 (A) in paragraph (25), by striking “and”
22 at the end;

23 (B) in paragraph (22)(B)(iii), by inserting
24 “and” after the semicolon at the end;

1 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (17)
2 through (26) as paragraphs (18), (19), (20),
3 (24), (25), (26), (21), (22), (23), and (27), re-
4 spectively, and moving the paragraphs so as to
5 appear in numerical order; and

6 (D) by inserting after paragraph (16) the
7 following:

8 “(17) ‘non-emitting alternative’ means a tech-
9 nological or efficiency-related energy solution that
10 does not entail the use of fossil fuels that are di-
11 rectly or indirectly related to the greenhouse effect,
12 including electrification, renewable energy sources,
13 networked geothermal systems, storage, efficiency,
14 and behavior change;”.

15 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

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

20 (B) Section 60102(q)(1) of title 49, United
21 States Code, is amended, in the matter pre-
22 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “sub-
23 section (a)(21)” and inserting “subsection
24 (a)(25)”.

1 **SEC. 102. COST-BENEFIT ANALYSES.**

2 Section 60102(b) of title 49, United States Code (as
3 amended by section 101), is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (2)—

5 (A) by striking subparagraphs (D) and
6 (E); and

7 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (F)
8 through (I) as subparagraphs (D) through (G),
9 respectively; and
10 (2) by striking paragraphs (3) through (7).

11 **SEC. 103. TECHNICAL SAFETY STANDARDS COMMITTEES.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 60115 of title 49, United
13 States Code, is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a), by striking the third sen-
15 tence;

16 (2) in subsection (b)(4)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (C)—

18 (i) by striking the second and third
19 sentences and inserting the following:

20 “(ii) None of the individuals selected for a committee
21 under paragraph (3)(C) may have a financial interest in
22 the pipeline, petroleum, ethanol, or gas industries, includ-
23 ing through direct ownership, consulting fees, wages, or
24 research funding provided directly to the individual, but
25 not including any compensation for a pipeline easement
26 on the property of the individual.”; and

1 (ii) by striking “(C) Two” and insert-
2 ing the following:

3 “(C)(i) Two”; and

4 (B) by striking subparagraph (D) and in-
5 serting the following:

6 “(iii) All individuals under consideration for selection
7 for a committee under paragraph (3)(C) shall submit to
8 the Secretary such financial records for the previous year
9 as the Secretary determines necessary to evaluate compli-
10 ance with clause (ii). All individuals selected for a com-
11 mittee under paragraph (3)(C) shall submit to the Sec-
12 retary, prior to appointment and annually thereafter for
13 so long as the individual is a member of the committee,
14 such financial records for the previous year as the Sec-
15 retary determines necessary to evaluate compliance with
16 clause (ii).

17 “(iv) The Secretary shall provide reasonable com-
18 pensation for members of each committee that are ap-
19 pointed under paragraph (3)(C). Such compensation shall
20 not make a member of a committee an officer or employee
21 of the Federal Government in determining eligibility for
22 membership on the applicable committee.”; and

23 (3) in subsection (c)—

24 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
 2 “Committee each standard proposed under
 3 this chapter for transporting gas and for
 4 gas pipeline facilities including the risk as-
 5 sessment information and other analyses
 6 supporting each proposed standard;” and
 7 inserting the following: “Committee—

8 “(i) each standard proposed under this
 9 chapter for—

10 “(I) transporting gas; or

11 “(II) gas pipeline facilities; and

12 “(ii) analyses supporting each proposed
 13 standard described in clause (i);” and

14 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
 15 “Committee each standard proposed under
 16 this chapter for transporting hazardous liq-
 17 uid and for hazardous liquid pipeline facili-
 18 ties including the risk assessment informa-
 19 tion and other analyses supporting each
 20 proposed standard.” and inserting the fol-
 21 lowing: “Committee—

22 “(i) each standard proposed under this
 23 chapter for—

24 “(I) transporting hazardous liquid; or

1 “(II) hazardous liquid pipeline facili-
 2 ties; and

3 “(ii) analyses supporting each proposed
 4 standard described in clause (i).”; and

5 (B) in paragraph (2), in the first sen-
 6 tence—

7 (i) by striking “cost-effectiveness,”;
 8 and

9 (ii) by inserting “, and the strength of
 10 the proposed standard to promote safety
 11 and protect the environment (as defined in
 12 section 2 of the Pipeline Accountability Act
 13 of 2025),” before “and include”.

14 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 15 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
 16 essary to carry out this section and the amendments made
 17 by this section.

18 **SEC. 104. APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS TO EXISTING**
 19 **PIPELINES.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 60104(b) of title 49,
 21 United States Code, is amended—

22 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking
 23 “NONAPPLICATION” and inserting “APPLICATION”;

24 (2) by striking “does not apply” and inserting
 25 “shall be applied”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following: “The
 2 authority of the Secretary to apply any standard
 3 promulgated pursuant to this chapter (including any
 4 standard promulgated prior to the date of enactment
 5 of the Pipeline Accountability Act of 2025) shall not
 6 be limited by virtue of a pipeline preexisting the
 7 issuance of that standard.”.

8 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 60109(c)
 9 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

10 (1) by striking paragraph (11); and

11 (2) by redesignating paragraph (12) as para-
 12 graph (11).

13 **SEC. 105. RUPTURE-MITIGATION VALVES ON PIPELINES IN**
 14 **HIGH CONSEQUENCE AREAS.**

15 Section 60109(c) of title 49, United States Code (as
 16 amended by section 104(b)(2)), is amended by adding at
 17 the end the following:

18 “(12) RUPTURE-MITIGATION VALVES ON PIPE-
 19 LINES IN HIGH CONSEQUENCE AREAS.—

20 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—

21 “(i) CLASS 3 OR 4 LOCATION.—The
 22 term ‘Class 3 or 4 location’, with respect
 23 to a gas pipeline facility, means, as appli-
 24 cable—

1 “(I) a Class 3 location (as de-
2 fined in section 192.5(b) of title 49,
3 Code of Federal Regulations (or a
4 successor regulation)); or

5 “(II) a Class 4 location (as de-
6 fined in that section).

7 “(ii) COVERED LOCATION.—The term
8 ‘covered location’ means—

9 “(I) a high consequence area;
10 and

11 “(II) a location where a rupture
12 could affect—

13 “(aa) a high consequence
14 area; or

15 “(bb) a Class 3 or 4 loca-
16 tion.

17 “(iii) COVERED PIPELINE.—The term
18 ‘covered pipeline’ means an existing or
19 newly constructed pipeline, 6 inches or
20 greater in diameter, that is—

21 “(I) a gas transmission pipeline;

22 “(II) a type A onshore gathering
23 pipeline (as described in section
24 192.8(c) of title 49, Code of Federal

1 Regulations (or a successor regula-
2 tion));

3 “(III) a hazardous liquid pipe-
4 line; or

5 “(IV) a carbon dioxide pipeline.

6 “(iv) HIGH CONSEQUENCE AREA.—

7 The term ‘high consequence area’ means—

8 “(I) with respect to a gas pipe-
9 line facility, a high consequence area
10 (as defined in section 192.903 of title
11 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or a
12 successor regulation)); and

13 “(II) with respect to a hazardous
14 liquid pipeline facility or relevant car-
15 bon dioxide pipeline facility, a high
16 consequence area (as defined in sec-
17 tion 195.450 of title 49, Code of Fed-
18 eral Regulations (or a successor regu-
19 lation)).

20 “(B) ISOLATION OF PIPELINE SEG-
21 MENTS.—Beginning on the date that is 5 years
22 after the date of enactment of the Pipeline Ac-
23 countability Act of 2025, an operator of a cov-
24 ered pipeline any portion of which is in a cov-
25 ered location shall, as soon as practicable, but

1 not later than 30 minutes after rupture identi-
2 fication, fully isolate any ruptured pipeline seg-
3 ment that is in a covered location, in order to
4 minimize the volume of product released from
5 the pipeline and mitigate the consequences of
6 the rupture.

7 “(C) DEMONSTRATION OF COMPLIANCE.—

8 “(i) EXISTING PIPELINES IN COVERED
9 LOCATIONS.—Not later than 5 years after
10 the date of enactment of the Pipeline Ac-
11 countability Act of 2025, each operator of
12 a covered pipeline any portion of which is
13 in a covered location as of that date of en-
14 actment shall demonstrate the ability of
15 the operator to comply with the require-
16 ments of subparagraph (B).

17 “(ii) SUBSEQUENT DETERMINA-
18 TIONS.—Beginning on the date of enact-
19 ment of the Pipeline Accountability Act of
20 2025, not later than 5 years after an exist-
21 ing covered pipeline is determined to be in
22 a covered location, the operator of that
23 covered pipeline shall demonstrate the abil-
24 ity of the operator to isolate the applicable
25 segment of the covered pipeline not later

1 than 30 minutes after rupture identifica-
2 tion, in accordance with subparagraph (B),
3 unless the operator has received a waiver
4 in accordance with subparagraph (D) with
5 respect to the applicable segment that is in
6 effect on the expiration of that 5-year pe-
7 riod.

8 “(D) WAIVER ON REQUEST.—The Sec-
9 retary may approve a waiver of the require-
10 ments of subparagraphs (B) and (C) on the re-
11 quest of an operator of a covered pipeline if the
12 request—

13 “(i)(I) demonstrates, in the deter-
14 mination of the Secretary, that meeting
15 the 30-minute standard described in sub-
16 paragraph (B) is operationally, techno-
17 logically, or economically infeasible; and

18 “(II) describes the methodology used
19 to reach, and the results of studies sup-
20 porting, that conclusion;

21 “(ii)(I) includes the estimated—

22 “(aa) isolation time; and

23 “(bb) consequences of a worst-
24 case scenario failure on the impacted

1 high consequence area or Class 3 or 4
2 location; and

3 “(II) demonstrates that the operator
4 has involved the local emergency services
5 in developing those estimates;

6 “(iii) demonstrates that the public
7 within the impacted area and the imme-
8 diately surrounding areas has been in-
9 formed of the consequences of a rupture
10 and consulted with respect to a waiver, in-
11 cluding by providing the estimated isola-
12 tion time; and

13 “(iv) for a pipeline segment for which
14 a rupture could affect a high consequence
15 area that is an unusually sensitive area (as
16 defined in section 195.6 of title 49, Code
17 of Federal Regulations (or a successor reg-
18 ulation)), demonstrates that relevant envi-
19 ronmental and public safety groups have
20 been informed of, and consulted with re-
21 spect to, the consequences of a rupture
22 and the request for a waiver.

23 “(E) EXPIRATION, RENEWAL, AND RE-
24 QUIRED REVIEW.—

1 “(i) EXPIRATION.—A waiver granted
2 by the Secretary under subparagraph (D)
3 shall expire 5 years after the date on which
4 the waiver was granted.

5 “(ii) RENEWAL.—A waiver granted by
6 the Secretary under subparagraph (D)
7 may be renewed on the submission by the
8 operator of a new request in accordance
9 with that subparagraph, subject to such re-
10 vision as the Secretary determines to be
11 appropriate based on a review of the re-
12 quest.

13 “(iii) REQUIRED REVIEW.—

14 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later
15 than 180 days after the occurrence of
16 an event described in subclause (II),
17 an operator receiving a waiver under
18 subparagraph (D) shall—

19 “(aa) review the waiver; and

20 “(bb) submit to the Sec-
21 retary a new request for a waiver
22 in accordance with that subpara-
23 graph, including such revisions as
24 the operator determines appro-
25 priate based on a review of the

1 applicable event described in that
2 subclause.

3 “(II) EVENTS DESCRIBED.—An
4 event referred to in subclause (I) is
5 any of the following:

6 “(aa) A significant incident
7 anywhere on the network of pipe-
8 lines of the operator.

9 “(bb) A change in the oper-
10 ational status of the applicable
11 pipeline segment that may im-
12 pact the safe operation of the
13 pipeline facility or the con-
14 sequences of a rupture.

15 “(cc) A change in the built
16 or natural environment that may
17 impact the safe operation of the
18 pipeline facility or the con-
19 sequences of a rupture.

20 “(dd) A change in the orga-
21 nizational structure of the oper-
22 ator, including a change in staff-
23 ing levels or locations, that would
24 affect the ability of the operator

1 to isolate the applicable pipeline
2 segment within the required time.

3 “(III) REVIEW BY THE SEC-
4 RETARY.—On receipt of a request
5 under subclause (I)(bb), the Secretary
6 shall—

7 “(aa) review the request;
8 and

9 “(bb) as the Secretary deter-
10 mines to be appropriate—

11 “(AA) grant a new
12 waiver under subparagraph
13 (D) with such revisions as
14 the Secretary determines to
15 be appropriate;

16 “(BB) revoke the exist-
17 ing waiver and require com-
18 pliance with subparagraphs
19 (B) and (C); or

20 “(CC) require the sub-
21 mission of a revised request
22 by a date determined by the
23 Secretary, addressing such
24 matters as the Secretary de-
25 termines to be appropriate.

1 “(IV) EXPIRATION DUE TO INAC-
 2 TION.—If an operator has not sub-
 3 mitted to the Secretary a request in
 4 accordance with item (bb) of sub-
 5 clause (I) by the date described in
 6 that subclause, the existing waiver
 7 shall expire as of that date.

8 “(F) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 2
 9 years after the date of enactment of the Pipe-
 10 line Accountability Act of 2025, the Secretary
 11 shall promulgate new, or revise existing, regula-
 12 tions to carry out this paragraph.”.

13 **SEC. 106. SAFETY OF CARBON DIOXIDE PIPELINES.**

14 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) HIGH CONSEQUENCE AREA.—The term
 16 “high consequence area” has the meaning given the
 17 term in section 192.903 of title 49, Code of Federal
 18 Regulations (or a successor regulation).

19 (2) POTENTIAL IMPACT AREA.—The term “po-
 20 tential impact area” means the area in which the po-
 21 tential failure of a pipeline transporting carbon diox-
 22 ide may be expected to have significant impact on
 23 persons, property, or the environment.

24 (3) REPORT.—The term “report” means the re-
 25 port of the Accident Investigation Division of the Of-

1 fice of Pipeline Safety of the Administration entitled
2 “Failure Investigation Report—Denbury Gulf Coast
3 Pipelines LLC—Pipeline Rupture/Natural Force
4 Damage” and dated May 26, 2022.

5 (b) COMPLETION OF RULEMAKING.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
7 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
8 retary shall—

9 (A) complete the rulemaking proceeding
10 relating to the notice of proposed rulemaking
11 issued on January 10, 2025, entitled “Pipeline
12 Safety: Safety of Carbon Dioxide and Haz-
13 ardous Liquid Pipelines” (Docket No.
14 PHMSA–2022–0125; RIN 2137–AF60); and

15 (B) issue a final rule pursuant to that
16 rulemaking proceeding, subject to the condi-
17 tions that—

18 (i) in completing the rulemaking pro-
19 ceeding and issuing the final rule, the Sec-
20 retary shall take into consideration the
21 measures described in paragraph (2); and

22 (ii) any substantive differences be-
23 tween the final rule and the proposed rule,
24 as published by the Administration on Jan-
25 uary 10, 2025—

- 1 (I) effectuate a measure de-
2 scribed in paragraph (2); and
3 (II) are responsive to the find-
4 ings and recommendations in the re-
5 port.

6 (2) MEASURES FOR CONSIDERATION.—In car-
7 rying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall con-
8 sider, and may effectuate, the following measures:

9 (A) The establishment of minimum safety
10 standards for all phases of carbon dioxide pipe-
11 line transportation.

12 (B) The development of appropriate stand-
13 ards for the determination of—

14 (i) a potential impact area, which may
15 include the use of plume dispersion models
16 and consideration of the impacts of local
17 weather and topography;

18 (ii) the area in which a rupture may
19 cause a sufficient concentration of carbon
20 dioxide to create a risk of fatality;

21 (iii) high consequence areas;

22 (iv) pipeline segments that could af-
23 fect high consequence areas; and

24 (v) the acceptable level of contami-
25 nants in the pipeline.

1 (C) The development and required use of
2 an effective, appropriate, and unique odorant,
3 or other effective and appropriate means of leak
4 detection, as determined through research and
5 development.

6 (D) The establishment of measures to en-
7 sure effective fracture propagation protection,
8 including requirements relating to—

9 (i) material toughness; and

10 (ii) the use of fracture arrestors.

11 (E) The establishment of detailed safety
12 standards for the conversion of existing pipe-
13 lines for use in transporting carbon dioxide.

14 (F) The establishment of guidelines for
15 emergency response plans and emergency re-
16 sponder training for carbon dioxide pipeline
17 leaks, ensuring that the relevant portions of
18 emergency response plans are available to rel-
19 evant emergency responders.

20 (3) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out
21 paragraph (1), including with respect to the matters
22 described in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall con-
23 sider—

24 (A) which measures will ensure the max-
25 imum protection of—

- 1 (i) public health;
- 2 (ii) pipeline integrity; and
- 3 (iii) the environment and public safe-
- 4 ty, consistent with section 60102 of title
- 5 49, United States Code; and

6 (B) whether the measures are responsive
7 to the findings and recommendations in the re-
8 port.

9 (c) OTHER REGULATIONS.—Not later than 2 years
10 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
11 promulgate regulations—

12 (1) requiring operators of carbon dioxide pipe-
13 lines—

14 (A) to identify and assess geohazards dur-
15 ing initial pipeline siting;

16 (B) to monitor for changes in hazardous
17 conditions that could impact pipeline safety;
18 and

19 (C) to take preventive and mitigative meas-
20 ures as appropriate;

21 (2) establishing reporting requirements relating
22 to—

23 (A) the location of carbon dioxide pipelines
24 and related facilities;

1 (B) the phase and material being trans-
2 ported through those pipelines, including the
3 type and quantity of contaminants; and

4 (C) how those pipelines and contents are
5 inspected;

6 (3) establishing standards and notification re-
7 quirements for cases in which the material being
8 transported by a carbon dioxide pipeline is not pure
9 carbon dioxide;

10 (4) requiring operators of carbon dioxide pipe-
11 lines to notify and coordinate with relevant Federal,
12 State, local, and Tribal officials and responders
13 when there is an incident or accident; and

14 (5) requiring operators of carbon dioxide pipe-
15 lines to notify individuals within the relevant poten-
16 tial impact area of the hazards posed by carbon di-
17 oxide pipelines and measures to take in the event of
18 a pipeline rupture.

19 (d) TRAINING AND OTHER RESOURCES.—The Sec-
20 retary shall provide training and other resources to rel-
21 evant local emergency responders that is tailored specifi-
22 cally to carbon dioxide pipeline ruptures, including infor-
23 mation on the potential impact area, any relevant
24 odorants, the health implications of exposure to high con-

1 concentrations of carbon dioxide, and the impact of high con-
2 centrations of carbon dioxide on vehicle functioning.

3 **SEC. 107. BLENDING IN NATURAL GAS SYSTEMS.**

4 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United
5 States shall—

6 (1) conduct a study of the short- and long-term
7 safety, health, environmental, and climate change
8 impacts and risks of blending hydrogen into existing
9 natural gas systems; and

10 (2) not later than 3 years after the date of en-
11 actment of this Act, submit to the Secretary and the
12 appropriate committees of Congress a report describ-
13 ing the results of the study, including—

14 (A) a description of any remaining knowl-
15 edge gaps relating to safely moving hydrogen-
16 methane blends through existing natural gas
17 systems;

18 (B) a description of the safety risks of hy-
19 drogen-methane blends in existing natural gas
20 systems, including—

21 (i) leak rates of hydrogen-methane
22 blends and associated environmental im-
23 pacts;

24 (ii) the performance of hydrogen-
25 methane blends in existing residential,

1 commercial, and industrial infrastructure;
2 and

3 (iii) underground migration of leaked
4 hydrogen-methane blends;

5 (C) a lifecycle analysis of hydrogen, includ-
6 ing environmental and climate impacts and
7 risks of blending hydrogen into existing natural
8 gas systems, as compared to—

9 (i) the status quo; and

10 (ii) other pathways for greenhouse gas
11 emissions reduction; and

12 (D) recommendations to the Secretary for
13 how to avoid or minimize risks determined
14 under paragraph (1).

15 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study
16 under subsection (a)(1), the Comptroller General of the
17 United States shall take into consideration, at a minimum,
18 the findings of the study on hydrogen blending commis-
19 sioned by the California Public Utilities Commission and
20 carried out by the University of California, Riverside, enti-
21 tled “Hydrogen Blending Impacts Study” and dated July
22 18, 2022.

23 (c) PROHIBITION.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—No pipeline operator may
25 transport any quantity of hydrogen, other than trace

1 amounts present as a contaminant, through a nat-
2 ural gas distribution pipeline system under the juris-
3 diction of the Secretary unless and until Congress
4 expressly provides, by statute, for the safe regulation
5 of blending hydrogen into natural gas distribution
6 pipeline systems.

7 (2) APPLICATION.—The prohibition described
8 in paragraph (1) shall not apply to natural gas dis-
9 tribution pipelines that—

10 (A) have been specifically designed to
11 transport hydrogen above trace levels; and

12 (B) have been transporting hydrogen above
13 trace levels for at least 10 years as of the date
14 of enactment of this Act.

15 **SEC. 108. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF NATURAL**
16 **GAS DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE SAFE-**
17 **TY AND MODERNIZATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

18 (a) MODIFICATION.—The matter under the heading
19 “NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY
20 AND MODERNIZATION GRANT PROGRAM” under the head-
21 ing “PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY AD-
22 MINISTRATION” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF
23 TRANSPORTATION” in title VIII of division J of the
24 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–
25 58; 135 Stat. 1443) is amended—

1 (1) in the matter preceding the first proviso, by
2 inserting “(referred to under this heading in this Act
3 as the ‘Secretary’)” after “Secretary of Transpor-
4 tation”;

5 (2) in the second proviso, by striking “to repair,
6 rehabilitate, or replace its natural gas distribution
7 pipeline system or portions thereof or to acquire
8 equipment to (1) reduce incidents and fatalities and
9 (2) avoid economic losses” and inserting “to repair,
10 rehabilitate, replace, or retire its natural gas dis-
11 tribution pipeline system or portions thereof or to
12 acquire equipment to (1) reduce incidents and fatali-
13 ties, (2) avoid economic losses, and (3) encourage
14 non-emitting alternatives”; and

15 (3) by inserting after the second proviso the fol-
16 lowing: “*Provided further*, That for purposes of the
17 preceding proviso, the term ‘non-emitting alter-
18 native’ means a technological or efficiency-related
19 energy solution that does not entail the use of fossil
20 fuels that are directly or indirectly related to the
21 greenhouse effect, including electrification, renew-
22 able energy sources, networked geothermal systems,
23 storage, efficiency, and behavior change: *Provided*
24 *further*, That the promotion or encouragement of
25 non-emitting alternatives (as defined in the pre-

1 ceding proviso) may include workforce training pro-
2 grams: *Provided further*, That in making grants
3 from funds made available under this heading in this
4 Act, the Secretary shall give additional consideration
5 to an applicant if all workers employed or contracted
6 by the applicant are paid wages at rates not less
7 than those prevailing on projects of a similar char-
8 acter in the locality as determined by the Secretary
9 of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chap-
10 ter 31 of title 40, United States Code, and to work-
11 force training programs that comply with appren-
12 ticeship requirements similar to the apprenticeship
13 requirements described in section 45(b)(8) of the In-
14 ternal Revenue Code of 1986, as determined or es-
15 tablished by the Secretary for purposes of making
16 those grants.”.

17 (b) REQUIREMENT.—Of the amounts made available
18 by subsection (c) each fiscal year, not less than 20 percent
19 shall be used for non-emitting alternatives (as defined in
20 the third proviso under the heading “NATURAL GAS DIS-
21 TRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY AND MODERNIZA-
22 TION GRANT PROGRAM” under the heading “PIPELINE
23 AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION”
24 under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPOR-
25 TATION” in title VIII of division J of the Infrastructure

1 Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58; 135 Stat.
2 1443)).

3 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—
4 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the
5 Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Mod-
6 ernization Grant Program described under the heading
7 “NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY
8 AND MODERNIZATION GRANT PROGRAM” under the head-
9 ing “PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY AD-
10 MINISTRATION” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF
11 TRANSPORTATION” in title VIII of division J of the
12 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–
13 58; 135 Stat. 1443)—

14 (1) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2027, to re-
15 main available until September 30, 2036;

16 (2) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2028, to re-
17 main available until September 30, 2037;

18 (3) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2029, to re-
19 main available until September 30, 2038;

20 (4) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2030, to re-
21 main available until September 30, 2039; and

22 (5) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2031, to re-
23 main available until September 30, 2040.

1 **SEC. 109. RULEMAKING ON UNDERGROUND NATURAL GAS**
2 **STORAGE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promul-
5 gate new, or revise existing, regulations to address under-
6 ground natural gas storage.

7 (b) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out subsection (a),
8 the Secretary shall review and consider relevant technical
9 and scientific information on the safety of underground
10 natural gas storage, including the most recently updated
11 version of each of the following:

12 (1) The standard of the American Petroleum
13 Institute entitled “Design and Operation of Solu-
14 tion-mined Salt Caverns used for Natural Gas Stor-
15 age” and numbered API Recommended Practice
16 1170.

17 (2) The standard of the American Petroleum
18 Institute entitled “Functional Integrity of Natural
19 Gas Storage in Depleted Hydrocarbon Reservoirs
20 and Aquifer Reservoirs” and numbered API Rec-
21 ommended Practice 1171.

22 (c) TOPICS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Sec-
23 retary shall review and consider updates to existing regu-
24 lations relating to risk management, emergency response,
25 and ensuring that underground natural gas storage wells
26 do not pose undue risks from single points of failure.

1 **TITLE II—PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**
2 **AND TRANSPARENCY**

3 **SEC. 201. OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 108 of title 49, United
5 States Code, is amended—

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

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

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

13 “(h) OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.—

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

15 “(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
16 GRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of
17 Congress’ has the meaning given the term in
18 section 2 of the Pipeline Accountability Act of
19 2025.

20 “(B) COVERED FACILITY.—The term ‘cov-
21 ered facility’ means—

22 “(i) a covered pipeline (as defined in
23 section 60109(c)(12)(A));

1 “(ii) a liquefied natural gas pipeline
2 facility (as defined in section 60101(a));
3 and

4 “(iii) an underground natural gas
5 storage facility (as defined in section
6 60101(a)).

7 “(C) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’
8 means the Director of the Office appointed
9 under paragraph (3).

10 “(D) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMU-
11 NITY.—The term ‘environmental justice com-
12 munity’ means a community with significant
13 representation of communities of color, low-in-
14 come communities, or Tribal and Indigenous
15 communities, that experiences, or is at risk of
16 experiencing, higher or more adverse human
17 health or environmental effects.

18 “(E) INCIDENT.—The term ‘incident’ has
19 the meaning given the term in section 191.3 of
20 title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or a suc-
21 cessor regulation).

22 “(F) LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY.—The
23 term ‘low-income community’ means a census
24 block group in which 30 percent or more of the
25 population are individuals with an annual

1 household income equal to, or less than, the
2 greatest of—

3 “(i) an amount equal to 80 percent of
4 the median income of the area in which the
5 household is located, as reported by the
6 Department of Housing and Urban Devel-
7 opment;

8 “(ii) 200 percent of the Federal pov-
9 erty line; and

10 “(iii) a level of income higher than the
11 levels described in clauses (i) and (ii), as
12 determined by the Secretary.

13 “(G) OFFICE.—The term ‘Office’ means
14 the Office of Public Engagement of the Admin-
15 istration established under paragraph (2).

16 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
18 after the date of enactment of this subsection,
19 the Administrator shall establish within the Ad-
20 ministration an office, to be known as the ‘Of-
21 fice of Public Engagement’.

22 “(B) PROCESS.—Before establishing the
23 Office under subparagraph (A), the Adminis-
24 trator shall—

1 “(i) seek and incorporate public input
2 regarding the responsibilities of the Office,
3 including through in-person public meet-
4 ings, prioritizing input from individuals
5 without financial interests in the pipeline,
6 petroleum, ethanol, or gas industries, in-
7 cluding environmental justice communities
8 and experts in community engagement;
9 and

10 “(ii) submit to the appropriate com-
11 mittees of Congress a summary of the
12 input received pursuant to clause (i) and
13 an explanation of how that input will be in-
14 tegrated into the establishment of the Of-
15 fice.

16 “(C) COMPENSATION.—The Administrator
17 may provide reasonable compensation for those
18 providing input pursuant to subparagraph (B)
19 in order to facilitate the participation of envi-
20 ronmental justice communities.

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

23 “(A) be appointed by the Administrator;

24 “(B) report to the Associate Administrator
25 for Pipeline Safety; and

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

3 “(4) EMPLOYEES.—The Director may appoint,
4 and assign the duties of, employees of the Office.

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

7 “(A) COORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE.—
8 The Director shall coordinate the provision of
9 assistance, including financial assistance, tech-
10 nical assistance, and educational assistance to
11 the public, with respect to the authorities exer-
12 cised by the Administration, including by
13 proactive and targeted community outreach
14 that incorporates—

15 “(i) accessible communications;

16 “(ii) the provision of in-person and
17 online communications; and

18 “(iii) translations to languages spoken
19 by impacted populations.

20 “(B) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.—The Direc-
21 tor shall coordinate active and ongoing engage-
22 ment with the public with respect to the author-
23 ity and activities of the Administration, includ-
24 ing by—

25 “(i) conducting—

1 “(I) proactive outreach, which
2 may include public postings, signage
3 at relevant physical locations, news-
4 paper publications, utility bill inserts,
5 mailings, phone calls, canvassing, and
6 door hangers, to communities, espe-
7 cially environmental justice commu-
8 nities, using varied media; and

9 “(II) meetings, set at times and
10 places to maximize the number of
11 community members who can conven-
12 iently attend, with appropriate serv-
13 ices, including, if the Director deter-
14 mines it would have a meaningful im-
15 pact on participation by members of
16 affected environmental justice commu-
17 nities—

18 “(aa) translation and inter-
19 preting services;

20 “(bb) virtual attendance;
21 and

22 “(cc) reasonable funding for
23 transportation to and from meet-
24 ings, food, and caregiving;

1 “(ii) establishing an independent, neu-
2 tral, accessible, confidential, and standard-
3 ized process to receive, review, process, and
4 follow up on inquiries, complaints, and al-
5 legations with respect to the activities of
6 the Administration and entities regulated
7 by the Administration, including with re-
8 spect to cracks and leaks in pipeline infra-
9 structure identified by workers and com-
10 munity members;

11 “(iii) assisting individuals in respond-
12 ing to and resolving inquiries, complaints,
13 and allegations described in clause (ii);

14 “(iv) making publicly available, and
15 proactively disseminating, information on
16 the manner in which members of the public
17 may file inquiries, complaints, and allega-
18 tions;

19 “(v) coordinating with the Federal
20 Energy Regulatory Commission, State
21 agencies, and, as necessary, other agencies
22 to direct public inquiries that are not with-
23 in the jurisdiction of the Administration to
24 the relevant agency;

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

9 “(vii) assisting local first responders,
10 local officials, and community members—

11 “(I) to develop their own emer-
12 gency management plans; and

13 “(II) to prepare to respond to all
14 potential adverse scenarios relating to
15 covered facility malfunctions, includ-
16 ing to evacuate on short notice if nec-
17 essary; and

18 “(viii) making publicly available, and
19 proactively disseminating, information on
20 local evacuation plans to the surrounding
21 community.

22 “(C) POST-INCIDENT SUPPORT.—The Di-
23 rector shall facilitate, including by directing im-
24 pacted individuals to the appropriate agency
25 and coordinating with relevant counterparts at

1 other agencies, appropriate remediation, envi-
2 ronmental testing, and assistance with com-
3 pensation in the case of leaks, incidents, acci-
4 dents, or other relevant events.”.

5 (b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
7 out section 108(h) of title 49, United States Code,
8 \$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2028.

9 **SEC. 202. PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PROPOSED RULES.**

10 Section 60104 of title 49, United States Code, is
11 amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) by striking “The Secretary of Trans-
14 portation” and inserting the following:

15 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary”; and

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

17 “(2) **PUBLIC HEARINGS.**—In proposing rules
18 under this chapter, including revisions to those
19 rules, the Secretary shall hold at least 1 public hear-
20 ing to address each proposed rule or revision.”; and

21 (2) in each of subsections (d)(1) and (e), by
22 striking “Secretary of Transportation” each place it
23 appears and inserting “Secretary”.

1 **SEC. 203. DISCLOSURE OF SAFETY DATA.**

2 Section 60132 of title 49, United States Code, is
3 amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “subsection
5 (a)” and inserting “subparagraph (A)”;

6 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subpara-
7 graph (C) and indenting appropriately;

8 (3) in subsection (a)—

9 (A) in paragraph (4), in the second sen-
10 tence, by striking “The Secretary” and insert-
11 ing the following:

12 “(B) NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—With re-
13 spect to data requested from operators under
14 subparagraph (A)(vi), the Secretary”;

15 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
16 through (4) as clauses (i), (ii), (v), and (vi), re-
17 spectively, and indenting appropriately;

18 (C) by inserting after clause (ii) (as so re-
19 designated) the following:

20 “(iii) Information on the matters de-
21 scribed in paragraph (2)(E).

22 “(iv) The location and type of any
23 valves installed on the pipeline.”; and

24 (D) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as
25 so redesignated)—

26 (i) by striking “and gathering lines”;

1 (ii) by striking “of Transportation”;

2 and

3 (iii) by striking the subsection des-
4 ignation and heading and all that follows
5 through “this section, the” and inserting
6 the following:

7 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 “(1) CLASS LOCATION.—The term ‘class loca-
9 tion’ means a class location described in section
10 192.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or a
11 successor regulation).

12 “(2) COVERED FACILITY.—The term ‘covered
13 facility’ means—

14 “(A) a covered pipeline (as defined in sec-
15 tion 60109(c)(12)(A));

16 “(B) a liquefied natural gas pipeline facil-
17 ity; and

18 “(C) an underground natural gas storage
19 facility.

20 “(3) HIGH CONSEQUENCE AREA.—The term
21 ‘high consequence area’ means—

22 “(A) with respect to a gas pipeline facility,
23 a high consequence area (as defined in section
24 192.903 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-
25 tions (or a successor regulation)); and

1 “(B) with respect to a hazardous liquid
2 pipeline facility or relevant carbon dioxide pipe-
3 line facility, a high consequence area (as de-
4 fined in section 195.450 of title 49, Code of
5 Federal Regulations (or a successor regula-
6 tion)).

7 “(4) MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE OPERATING PRES-
8 SURE.—The term ‘maximum allowable operating
9 pressure’ has the meaning given the term in section
10 192.3 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or a
11 successor regulation).

12 “(5) MAXIMUM OPERATING PRESSURE.—The
13 term ‘maximum operating pressure’ has the meaning
14 given the term in section 195.2 of title 49, Code of
15 Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

16 “(6) MODERATE CONSEQUENCE AREA.—The
17 term ‘moderate consequence area’ has the meaning
18 given the term in section 192.3 of title 49, Code of
19 Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

20 “(7) POTENTIAL IMPACT AREA.—The term ‘po-
21 tential impact area’ means the area in which the po-
22 tential failure of a pipeline may be expected to have
23 a significant impact on persons, property, or the en-
24 vironment (as defined in section 2 of the Pipeline
25 Accountability Act of 2025).

1 “(8) POTENTIAL IMPACT RADIUS.—The term
2 ‘potential impact radius’ has the meaning given the
3 term in section 192.903 of title 49, Code of Federal
4 Regulations (or a successor regulation).

5 “(b) INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED.—

6 “(1) INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO THE
7 SECRETARY.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The”;

9 (4) in subsection (b) (as so designated), by add-
10 ing at the end the following:

11 “(2) INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO THE
12 PUBLIC.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
14 after the date of enactment of the Pipeline Ac-
15 countability Act of 2025, each operator of a
16 covered facility shall provide to the public, free
17 of charge, on a publicly accessible website, in a
18 simple and consolidated form—

19 “(i) information about the substances
20 being transported by pipelines managed by
21 the operator, including any blended prod-
22 ucts, any relevant odorants, and any con-
23 taminants;

24 “(ii) the plans that have been made
25 for the decommissioning of—

1 “(I) each abandoned pipeline of
2 the operator; and

3 “(II) each removed or remediated
4 pipeline of the operator;

5 “(iii) contact information for the oper-
6 ator and the Pipeline and Hazardous Ma-
7 terials Safety Administration;

8 “(iv) relevant portions of operator
9 emergency response plans needed by the
10 public to prepare State, local, commercial,
11 nonprofit, and personal emergency re-
12 sponse plans;

13 “(v) information about how far build-
14 ings are required to be set back from a
15 pipeline; and

16 “(vi) for carbon dioxide pipelines—

17 “(I) the results of any dispersion
18 modeling performed; and

19 “(II) any estimates of the zone in
20 which carbon dioxide concentrations
21 could be fatal in the event of a pipe-
22 line rupture.

23 “(B) UPDATES.—The information provided
24 under subparagraph (A) shall be updated as

1 necessary, but not less frequently than once
2 each year.

3 “(C) ANNUAL NOTIFICATION.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Each operator of
5 a covered facility shall, not less frequently
6 than annually, provide to the recipients de-
7 scribed in clause (ii) a notification that in-
8 cludes all information described in sub-
9 paragraph (A) with respect to the covered
10 facility.

11 “(ii) RECIPIENTS DESCRIBED.—The
12 recipients referred to in clause (i) are—

13 “(I) the Secretary;

14 “(II) the owners of all occupied
15 residences and operational commercial
16 structures that, in the determination
17 of the Secretary, could be impacted by
18 a rupture or explosion of the applica-
19 ble covered facility;

20 “(III) any tenants of those struc-
21 tures; and

22 “(IV) relevant first responders.

23 “(iii) REQUIREMENT.—A notification
24 under clause (i) shall include—

1 “(I) a description of the changes
2 from the previous notification pro-
3 vided under that clause, if applicable;

4 “(II) a statement of the rel-
5 evant—

6 “(aa) legal duties of the op-
7 erator; and

8 “(bb) legal rights of, as ap-
9 plicable—

10 “(AA) the owners and
11 residents of the occupied
12 residences; or

13 “(BB) the owners, ten-
14 ants, and manager of the
15 operational commercial
16 structure; and

17 “(III) a statement informing the
18 recipient of the additional information
19 that the recipient may request under
20 subparagraph (D).

21 “(D) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—On the
22 request of any person, an operator of a pipeline
23 facility shall provide to that person—

1 “(i) the information described in sub-
2 paragraph (A) with respect to all pipeline
3 facilities of the operator; and

4 “(ii) pipeline safety information, in-
5 cluding—

6 “(I) information on the matters
7 described in subparagraph (E) with
8 respect to each pipeline facility oper-
9 ated by the operator;

10 “(II) educational material relat-
11 ing to the matters described in that
12 subparagraph to better inform the
13 public about the information disclosed
14 under subclause (I), provided in a
15 simple and consolidated form; and

16 “(III) a description of how the
17 information described in subclause (I)
18 was acquired or determined, including
19 any formulas used and any tests car-
20 ried out.

21 “(E) MATTERS DESCRIBED.—The matters
22 referred to in subparagraph (D)(ii)(I) and para-
23 graph (1)(A)(iii) include—

24 “(i) high consequence areas;

25 “(ii) moderate consequence areas;

1 “(iii) potential impact radii and po-
2 tential impact areas;

3 “(iv) class locations;

4 “(v) pipe size;

5 “(vi) the date of pipeline construction;

6 “(vii) the history of incidents, acci-
7 dents, and repairs on the pipeline;

8 “(viii) geohazards that may impact
9 pipeline safety;

10 “(ix) pressure information, includ-
11 ing—

12 “(I) maximum operating pres-
13 sure; and

14 “(II) maximum allowable oper-
15 ating pressure;

16 “(x) with respect to gathering lines,
17 the types of gathering lines, including Type
18 A, Type B, Type C, and Type R pipelines;

19 “(xi) the health, safety, and environ-
20 ment management programs of the oper-
21 ator; and

22 “(xii) any other matter that—

23 “(I) relates to the safety and reli-
24 ability of a pipeline facility under the
25 jurisdiction of the Secretary; and

1 “(II) in the determination of the
2 Secretary, is in the public interest to
3 be disclosed.

4 “(F) DEADLINE.—Not later than 90 days
5 after receiving a request under subparagraph
6 (D), an operator of a pipeline facility shall pro-
7 vide the information required to be disclosed
8 under that subparagraph to the person making
9 the request.

10 “(3) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 2 years
11 after the date of enactment of the Pipeline Account-
12 ability Act of 2025, the Secretary shall promulgate
13 regulations to carry out this subsection, including
14 providing for standardized formats for operators to
15 release information to the public.”;

16 (5) in subsection (d)—

17 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
18 “HIGH-CONSEQUENCE” and inserting “HIGH
19 CONSEQUENCE”;

20 (B) in paragraph (1)—

21 (i) by striking “high-consequence
22 areas (as described in section 60109(a))”
23 and inserting “high consequence areas”;
24 and

25 (ii) by striking “and” at the end;

1 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
 2 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

4 “(3) make the map available to the public on an
 5 internet website, in a machine-readable format, as
 6 part of the National Pipeline Mapping System Pub-
 7 lic Map Viewer or at an alternative location.”; and

8 (6) in subsection (f), by striking “subsection
 9 (a)” and inserting “subsection (b)(1)”.

10 **SEC. 204. REPORTING OF BLENDED PRODUCTS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—All operators of natural gas pipe-
 12 lines shall report to the Secretary blended, non-predomi-
 13 nant products that exceed, at any point in time, 1 percent
 14 by volume of the product transported by the pipeline.

15 (b) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary may promulgate
 16 new, or revise existing, regulations to implement the re-
 17 quirements of subsection (a).

18 **SEC. 205. INCIDENT REPORTING FOR GAS PIPELINES.**

19 (a) DEFINITION OF GAS.—In this section, the term
 20 “gas” has the meaning given the term in section 60101(a)
 21 of title 49, United States Code.

22 (b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year after the
 23 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promul-
 24 gate new, or revise existing, regulations to require opera-
 25 tors of gas pipelines—

1 (1) to meet incident reporting standards that
2 require those operators to report all gas releases of
3 50,000 cubic feet or more, regardless of any intent
4 of the operator or any other person with respect to
5 the release; and

6 (2) to report—

7 (A) all incidents resulting in fire or explo-
8 sion;

9 (B) all incidents resulting in property dam-
10 age of \$50,000 or more in value; and

11 (C) all incidents resulting in bodily harm
12 to any person resulting in—

13 (i) loss of consciousness;

14 (ii) necessity to carry a person from
15 the scene;

16 (iii) necessity for medical treatment;

17 or

18 (iv) disability that prevents the dis-
19 charge of normal duties or the pursuit of
20 normal duties beyond the day of the inci-
21 dent.

22 **TITLE III—ACCOUNTABILITY**

23 **SEC. 301. PROHIBITION AGAINST RELEASES.**

24 Section 60118(a) of title 49, United States Code, is
25 amended—

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

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

6 (3) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)
7 (as so redesignated), by striking “facility shall—”
8 and inserting the following: “facility—

9 “(1) shall—”; and

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

11 “(2) shall not release gas or hazardous liquid
12 from a pipeline facility in a quantity that would re-
13 quire the reporting of an incident or accident under
14 a regulation prescribed under this chapter.”.

15 **SEC. 302. ACTIONS BY PRIVATE PERSONS.**

16 Section 60121 of title 49, United States Code, is
17 amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a)—

19 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and
20 (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

21 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1) A
22 person” and all that follows through “However,
23 the person” in the second sentence and insert-
24 ing the following:

1 “(1) CIVIL ACTION.—A person may bring a civil
2 action in an appropriate district court of the United
3 States for all appropriate relief, including civil pen-
4 alties and injunctive relief, against—

5 “(A) another person (including the United
6 States Government and other governmental au-
7 thorities to the extent permitted under the
8 Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution of the
9 United States) for a violation of this chapter or
10 a regulation prescribed or order issued under
11 this chapter; or

12 “(B) the Secretary where there is alleged
13 a failure of the Secretary to perform any act or
14 duty under this chapter that is nondis-
15 cretionary.

16 “(2) REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS.—With
17 respect to a civil action described in paragraph (1),
18 a person”;

19 (C) in paragraph (2) (as so designated), by
20 indenting subparagraphs (A) through (C) ap-
21 propriately;

22 (D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated),
23 by striking the paragraph designation and all
24 that follows through “The Secretary shall” and
25 inserting the following:

1 “(3) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall”;

2 (E) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated),
 3 by striking the paragraph designation and all
 4 that follows through “The Secretary, with” and
 5 inserting the following:

6 “(4) INTERVENTION.—The Secretary, with”;

7 and

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

9 “(5) JURISDICTION.—The district courts of the
 10 United States shall have jurisdiction, without regard
 11 to the amount in controversy or the citizenship of
 12 the parties—

13 “(A) to enforce a pipeline safety standard
 14 or limitation established under this chapter;

15 “(B) to enforce a regulation prescribed or
 16 order issued under this chapter;

17 “(C) to order the Secretary to perform any
 18 act or duty under this chapter; and

19 “(D) to impose any appropriate civil pen-
 20 alties under section 60122.”;

21 (2) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and
 23 (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively,
 24 and indenting appropriately;

1 (B) in the matter preceding subparagraph
2 (A) (as so redesignated), in the first sentence,
3 by striking “The court” and inserting the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The court”; and

6 (C) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), in
7 the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so
8 redesignated), by striking, “The court may
9 award costs to” in the second sentence and all
10 that follows through “In this subsection” in the
11 third sentence and inserting the following:

12 “(2) REASONABLE ATTORNEY’S FEE.—For pur-
13 poses of paragraph (1)”; and

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

15 “(e) VENUE; INTERVENTION BY THE SECRETARY.—

16 “(1) VENUE.—Any action under this section
17 may be brought in—

18 “(A) the district court of the United States
19 for the judicial district in which the violation
20 occurred; or

21 “(B) the United States District Court for
22 the District of Columbia.

23 “(2) INTERVENTION BY THE SECRETARY.—If
24 the Secretary is not a party to an action described

1 in paragraph (1), the Secretary may intervene in
2 that action as a matter of right.

3 “(f) NONRESTRICTION OF OTHER RIGHTS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise limited
5 by section 60104(c), nothing in this section restricts
6 any right that any person (or class of persons) may
7 have under any statute or the common law—

8 “(A) to seek enforcement of any standard
9 or limitation; or

10 “(B) to seek any other relief (including re-
11 lief against the Secretary or a State agency).

12 “(2) STATE, LOCAL, AND INTERSTATE AUTHOR-
13 ITY.—Except as otherwise limited by section
14 60104(c), nothing in this section shall be construed
15 to prohibit, exclude, or restrict any State, local, or
16 interstate authority from—

17 “(A) bringing any enforcement action or
18 obtaining any judicial remedy or sanction in
19 any State or local court; or

20 “(B) bringing any administrative enforce-
21 ment action or obtaining any administrative
22 remedy or sanction in any State or local admin-
23 istrative agency, department, or instrumentality
24 under any State or local law relating to pipeline
25 safety against—

1 “(i) the United States;

2 “(ii) any department, agency, or in-
3 strumentality of the United States; or

4 “(iii) any officer, agent, or employee
5 of the United States.”.

6 **SEC. 303. PENALTIES.**

7 (a) MAXIMUM CIVIL PENALTY FOR A RELATED SE-
8 RIES OF VIOLATIONS.—Section 60122(a)(1) of title 49,
9 United States Code, is amended by striking the third sen-
10 tence.

11 (b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise
13 subpart B of part 190 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-
14 tions, in accordance with the amendment made by sub-
15 section (a).

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