



1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) GAS AND HAZARDOUS LIQUID.—Section  
3 60125(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 “(a) GAS AND HAZARDOUS LIQUID.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the provisions  
7 of this chapter related to gas and hazardous liquid  
8 and section 12 of the Pipeline Safety Improvement  
9 Act of 2002 (49 U.S.C. 60101 note; Public Law  
10 107–355), there are authorized to be appropriated to  
11 the Secretary from fees collected under section  
12 60301—

13 “(A) \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, of  
14 which \$9,000,000 shall be expended for car-  
15 rying out such section 12 and \$60,000,000  
16 shall be expended for making grants;

17 “(B) \$154,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, of  
18 which \$9,000,000 shall be expended for car-  
19 rying out such section 12 and \$63,000,000  
20 shall be expended for making grants;

21 “(C) \$158,000,000 for fiscal year 2022, of  
22 which \$9,000,000 shall be expended for car-  
23 rying out such section 12 and \$66,000,000  
24 shall be expended for making grants; and

25 “(D) \$162,000,000 for fiscal year 2023, of  
26 which \$9,000,000 shall be expended for car-

1           rying out such section 12 and \$69,000,000  
2           shall be expended for making grants.

3           “(2) TRUST FUND AMOUNTS.—In addition to  
4           the amounts authorized to be appropriated under  
5           paragraph (1), there are authorized to be appro-  
6           priated from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund de-  
7           scribed in section 9509(a) of the Internal Revenue  
8           Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9509(a)) to carry out the  
9           provisions of this chapter relating to hazardous liq-  
10          uid and section 12 of the Pipeline Safety Improve-  
11          ment Act of 2002 (49 U.S.C. 60101 note; Public  
12          Law 107–355)—

13                   “(A) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, of  
14                  which—

15                           “(i) \$3,000,000 shall be used to carry  
16                           out section 12 of such Act; and

17                           “(ii) \$10,000,000 shall be used for  
18                           making grants;

19                   “(B) \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, of  
20                  which—

21                           “(i) \$3,000,000 shall be used to carry  
22                           out section 12 of such Act; and

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

1           “(C) \$27,000,000 for fiscal year 2022, of  
2           which—

3           “(i) \$3,000,000 shall be used to carry  
4           out section 12 of such Act; and

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

7           “(D) \$28,000,000 for fiscal year 2023, of  
8           which—

9           “(i) \$3,000,000 shall be used to carry  
10          out section 12 of such Act; and

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

13          “(3) UNDERGROUND NATURAL GAS STORAGE  
14          FACILITY SAFETY ACCOUNT.—To carry out section  
15          60141, there is authorized to be appropriated to the  
16          Secretary \$8,000,000 from fees collected under sec-  
17          tion 60302 for each of fiscal years 2020 through  
18          2023.”.

19          (b) OPERATIONAL EXPENSES.—Section 2(b) of the  
20          PIPES Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–183; 130 Stat. 515)  
21          is amended by striking paragraphs (1) through (4) and  
22          inserting the following:

23                 “(1) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.

24                 “(2) \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.

25                 “(3) \$27,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

1 “(4) \$28,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.”.

2 (c) EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS.—Section  
3 60125(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 “(b) EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may estab-  
7 lish a program to make grants to State, county,  
8 local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organi-  
9 zations providing pipeline emergency response train-  
10 ing, for—

11 “(A) emergency response management;

12 “(B) training; and

13 “(C) technical assistance.

14 “(2) TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.—To the extent  
15 that a grant is used to train emergency responders,  
16 any training shall ensure that emergency responders  
17 can protect nearby persons, property, and the envi-  
18 ronment from the effects of accidents or incidents  
19 involving gas or hazardous liquid pipelines, in ac-  
20 cordance with existing regulations.

21 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

22 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
23 this subsection \$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
24 2020 through 2023.”.

1 (d) ONE-CALL NOTIFICATION PROGRAMS.—Section  
2 6107 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by strik-  
3 ing “2016 through 2019” and inserting “2020 through  
4 2023”.

5 (e) PIPELINE SAFETY INFORMATION GRANTS TO  
6 COMMUNITIES.—Section 60130(c) of title 49, United  
7 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 “(c) FUNDING.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made  
10 available under section 2(b) of the PIPES Act of  
11 2016, the Secretary shall use \$1,500,000 for each of  
12 fiscal years 2020 through 2023 to carry out this sec-  
13 tion.

14 “(2) LIMITATION.—Any amounts used to carry  
15 out this section may not be derived from user fees  
16 collected under section 60301.”.

17 (f) DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—Section  
18 60134(i) of title 49, United States Code, is amended in  
19 the first sentence by striking “2012 through 2015” and  
20 inserting “2020 through 2023”.

21 (g) PIPELINE INTEGRITY PROGRAM.—Section 12(f)  
22 of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (49  
23 U.S.C. 60101 note; Public Law 107–355) is amended by  
24 striking “2016 through 2019” and inserting “2020  
25 through 2023”.

1 **SEC. 3. STRENGTHENING OPERATOR QUALIFICATION PRO-**  
2 **GRAMS.**

3 (a) **QUALIFICATIONS OF PIPELINE OPERATORS.**—  
4 Section 60102(a)(3) of title 49, United States Code, is  
5 amended—

6 (1) by striking “operates and maintains” and  
7 inserting “operates and maintains, or constructs”;

8 (2) by inserting “, a gas gathering line, or a  
9 hazardous liquid gathering line” before “shall ad-  
10 dress”;

11 (3) by striking “operator of a pipeline facility”  
12 and inserting “operator of a pipeline facility, a gas  
13 gathering line, or a hazardous liquid gathering line”;

14 (4) by striking “operate and maintain” and in-  
15 sserting “operate and maintain, or construct” each  
16 place it appears; and

17 (5) by inserting “, gas gathering lines, or haz-  
18 arduous liquid gathering lines” before the period at  
19 the end.

20 (b) **VERIFICATION OF PIPELINE QUALIFICATION**  
21 **PROGRAMS.**—Section 60131 of title 49, United States  
22 Code, is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (d) by adding at the end the  
24 following:

1           “(5) A management of change program that  
2 will communicate changes that affect covered tasks  
3 to individuals performing those covered tasks.”; and

4           (2) by striking subsection (g) and inserting the  
5 following:

6           “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7           “(1) COVERED TASK.—The term ‘covered  
8 task’—

9           “(A) with respect to a gas pipeline facility,  
10 has the meaning such term has under section  
11 192.801 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-  
12 tions, including any subsequent modifications;  
13 and

14           “(B) with respect to a hazardous liquid  
15 pipeline facility, has the meaning such term has  
16 under section 195.501 of such title, including  
17 any subsequent modifications;

18           “(C) includes, with respect to a gas pipe-  
19 line facility or a hazardous liquid pipeline facil-  
20 ity described in subparagraphs (A) and (B), a  
21 construction task.

22           “(2) PIPELINE FACILITY.—The term ‘pipeline  
23 facility’ includes regulated gas gathering lines and  
24 regulated hazardous liquid gathering lines.”.



1 (c) OPERATOR QUALIFICATION PROGRAM EFFEC-  
2 TIVENESS.—

3 (1) RULEMAKING REQUIRED.—Not later than 1  
4 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
5 Secretary of Transportation shall issue such regula-  
6 tions as are necessary to require pipeline facility op-  
7 erator qualification programs to include a written  
8 process to measure the effectiveness of the program  
9 at minimizing human error during the performance  
10 of a covered task.

11 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In issuing the regula-  
12 tions required under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
13 shall consider the elements of program effectiveness  
14 contained in the notice of proposed rulemaking  
15 issued on July 10, 2015 titled “Pipeline Safety: Op-  
16 erator Qualification, Cost Recovery, Accident and  
17 Incident Notification, and Other Pipeline Safety 3  
18 Proposed Changes” (80 Fed. Reg. 39916).

19 (3) COVERED TASK DEFINED.—In this sub-  
20 section, the term “covered task” has the meaning  
21 given the term in section 60131(g) of title 49,  
22 United States Code.

23 **SEC. 4. SAFETY-RELATED CONDITION REPORTS.**

24 Section 60102(h) of title 49, United States Code, is  
25 amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (2) by striking “Notice of the  
2 condition shall be given concurrently to appropriate  
3 State authorities.”; and

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

5 “(3)(A) Notice of the condition of an intrastate  
6 or interstate pipeline facility shall be given concu-  
7 rently to appropriate State authorities, as defined by  
8 the Secretary.

9 “(B) The Secretary shall require that when a  
10 State agency receives a report on a safety-related  
11 condition, the State agency shall provide the report  
12 to any State emergency response commission, tribal  
13 emergency response commission, tribal emergency  
14 planning committee, local emergency planning com-  
15 mittee, local government, or public agency respon-  
16 sible for emergency response that requests the re-  
17 port, including any updates to the report received by  
18 the State agency.”.

19 **SEC. 5. PROPERTY DAMAGE THRESHOLD.**

20 Section 60123(d)(2)(A) of title 49, United States  
21 Code, is amended by striking “\$50,000” and inserting  
22 “\$200,000”.

23 **SEC. 6. PIPELINE FACILITY SECURITY.**

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

1       “(e) PENALTY FOR ALTERING PHYSICAL INFRA-  
2 STRUCTURE.—

3               “(1) DEFINITION OF ALTERING A PIPELINE FA-  
4 CILITY.—In this subsection, the term ‘altering a  
5 pipeline facility’ means—

6                       “(A) the unauthorized turning or manipu-  
7 lation of any valve of a pipeline facility de-  
8 scribed in subsection (b);

9                       “(B) the puncturing of—

10                               “(i) an existing pipeline that is in use  
11 for a facility described in subsection (b); or

12                               “(ii) a pipeline pipe, pump, or valve  
13 intended to be used by a facility described  
14 in subsection (b); or

15                       “(C) causing a defect that would affect the  
16 integrity of safe operations for—

17                               “(i) an existing pipeline that is in use  
18 for a facility described in subsection (b); or

19                               “(ii) a pipeline pipe, pump, or valve  
20 intended to be used by a facility described  
21 in subsection (b).

22               “(2) PENALTY.—A person knowingly and will-  
23 fully altering a pipeline facility shall be fined or im-  
24 prisoned in accordance with subsection (a).”.

1           “(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in  
2           this subsection abridges the exercise of rights guar-  
3           anteed under the First Amendment to the Constitu-  
4           tion of the United States.”.

5   **SEC. 7. ACCESS TO OIL SPILL RESPONSE PLANS.**

6           Section 60138 of title 49, United States Code, is  
7   amended—

8           (1) in subsection (a)—

9                   (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “and”;

10                   (B) in paragraph (2)(D) by striking the  
11           period and inserting “; and”; and

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

13           “(3) provide to a Member of Congress, upon  
14           written request from such Member, access to view a  
15           copy of the plan, the contents of which the Secretary  
16           may not redact, but may note as the Secretary de-  
17           termines appropriate—

18                   “(A) proprietary information; and

19                   “(B) security-sensitive information, includ-  
20           ing information described in section 1520.5(a)  
21           of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.”;

22           (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
23           section (d); and

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

1       “(c) LIMITATIONS ON INFORMATION PROVIDED TO  
2 CONGRESS.—The following requirements shall apply to  
3 any activities carried out under subsection (a)(3):

4           “(1) To review an oil spill response plan, the  
5 Administrator shall provide the Member access to a  
6 full and unredacted paper copies of the plans for the  
7 Congressional district of such Member in a secure  
8 reading room for purposes of review only.

9           “(2) Congressional review of full and  
10 unredacted copies of oil spill response plans carried  
11 out under such subsection shall be the exclusive au-  
12 thority for congressional review of such plans.

13           “(3) Information identified under subparagraph  
14 (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(3) may not be distrib-  
15 uted in any form, including verbal, electronic or  
16 written communication, or transmittal of copied  
17 image.

18           “(4) All information described in paragraph (3)  
19 shall remain confidential and any unauthorized dis-  
20 closure of such information is subject to a fine of  
21 \$10,000.

22           “(5) The provision of access to information de-  
23 scribed in paragraph (3) shall not be construed to  
24 waive or amend the obligations or authorities of the  
25 Administrator to protect information from disclosure

1       pursuant to section 552(b) of title 5, section 60138,  
2       or any other applicable laws.”.

3       **SEC. 8. NATIONAL PIPELINE MAPPING SYSTEM.**

4       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 60132 of title 49, United  
5 States Code, is amended by striking subsection (f) and in-  
6 serting the following:

7       “(f) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE LIMITED.—Data and in-  
8 formation submitted to the Secretary under this section  
9 may not be disclosed to the public pursuant to section  
10 552(b)(3)(B) of title 5.”.

11       (b) EVALUATION OF INFORMATION.—Not later than  
12 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
13 retary shall issue regulations on the evaluation of the in-  
14 formation required under paragraphs (1) through (4) of  
15 section 60132(a) of title 49, United States Code, with re-  
16 spect to gathering lines.

17       **SEC. 9. DEPTH OF COVER FOR INLAND BODIES OF WATER.**

18       Section 60140 of title 49, United States Code, is  
19 amended by adding at the end the following:

20       “(c) DATA SET FOR PIPELINES CROSSING CERTAIN  
21 WATER BODIES.—

22       “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
23 the date of enactment of this subsection, the Sec-  
24 retary shall collect and maintain geospatial data ca-  
25 pable of identifying hazardous liquid pipelines cross-

1 ing inland bodies of water with a width of at least  
2 100 feet from high water mark to high water mark  
3 and where the pipeline segment is within, or could  
4 affect, a high consequence area (as defined in sec-  
5 tions 192.903 and 195.450 of title 49, Code of Fed-  
6 eral Regulations).

7 “(2) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—The Secretary  
8 shall make the data set collected and maintained  
9 under paragraph (1) available on the publicly avail-  
10 able website of the Department of Transportation.

11 “(3) NATIONAL PIPELINE MAPPING SYSTEM.—  
12 The Secretary shall include such data set in the Na-  
13 tional Pipeline Mapping System for purposes of  
14 meeting the requirement under paragraph (2).”.

15 **SEC. 10. PIPELINE OPERATING STATUS.**

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

19 **“§ 60142. Idled pipelines**

20 “(a) DEFINITION OF IDLED.—In this section, the  
21 term ‘idled’, with respect to a pipeline, means that the  
22 pipeline—

23 “(1)(A) has ceased normal operations; and

24 “(B) will not resume service for a period of not  
25 less than 180 days and

1           “(2) has been isolated from all sources of haz-  
2           ardous liquid, natural gas, or other gas; and

3           “(3) has been purged of combustibles and haz-  
4           ardous materials; and

5           “(4) if a blanket of inert, nonflammable gas is  
6           placed in the line, such gas must be at low pressure  
7           and odorized; and,

8           “(5) has received approval from the Secretary  
9           to be removed as an active pipeline.

10          “(b) APPROVAL.—Before an operator may place a  
11          natural or other gas pipeline facility or hazardous liquid  
12          pipeline facility into idled status, the operator must re-  
13          quest an approval, in writing, from the Secretary.

14          “(c) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may allow idled  
15          natural or other gas pipeline facilities and hazardous liq-  
16          uid pipeline facilities to remain in idled status for a period  
17          longer than described in paragraph (a), provided that such  
18          request be made in writing and not exceed a period of 5  
19          years for each requested extension.

20          “(d) RULEMAKING.—

21                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years  
22                 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
23                 retary shall promulgate regulations prescribing the  
24                 applicability of the pipeline safety requirements to



1 idled natural or other gas pipeline facilities and haz-  
2 arduous liquid pipeline facilities.

3 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations promul-  
4 gated under paragraph (1) shall contain the fol-  
5 lowing requirements:

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The applicability of  
7 the regulations under paragraph (1) shall be  
8 based on the risk that idled natural or other  
9 gas pipeline facilities and hazardous liquid pipe-  
10 line facilities pose to the public, property, and  
11 the environment, and shall include requirements  
12 to resume operation.

13 “(B) NOTIFICATION AND APPROVAL.—The  
14 Secretary shall establish procedures, including a  
15 requirement for notification to the public, for  
16 requesting an approval, described in subsection  
17 (b), and an extension, described in subsection  
18 (c), before an operator changes the operating  
19 status of a natural or other gas pipeline facility  
20 or hazardous liquid pipeline facility.

21 “(C) INSPECTION.—The Secretary or an  
22 appropriate State agency shall inspect each  
23 idled natural or other gas pipeline facility or  
24 hazardous liquid pipeline facility and verify that

1 the pipeline has been purged of combustibles  
2 and hazardous materials.

3 “(D) REQUIREMENTS FOR REINSPEC-  
4 TION.—The Secretary shall determine the re-  
5 quirements for periodic reinspection of idled  
6 natural or other gas pipeline facilities and haz-  
7 ardous liquid pipeline facilities.

8 “(E) INVENTORY.—The Secretary shall re-  
9 quire operators to report to the Secretary infor-  
10 mation on idled natural or other gas pipeline  
11 facilities and hazardous liquid pipeline facilities  
12 in their system, including the location of a pipe-  
13 line, whether the pipeline has been purged of  
14 combustibles and hazardous materials, whether  
15 a blanket of inert gas remains in the line, the  
16 date on which the operator idled the pipeline,  
17 and a written description for why the operator  
18 chose to place each pipeline into idle status.

19 “(e) AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make  
21 available to the public the inventory required under  
22 subsection (d)(E), and publish annually on a website  
23 accessible to the public a list indicating pipeline op-  
24 erating status changes. The list shall include—

25 “(A) the name of the operator; and



1           “(c) DURATION.—The term of a testing program es-  
2   tablished under subsection (a) shall be not more than a  
3   period of 4 years beginning on the date of approval of the  
4   program.

5           “(d) SAFETY STANDARDS.—

6           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall re-  
7   quire, as a condition of approval of a testing pro-  
8   gram under subsection (a), that the safety measures  
9   in the testing program are designed to achieve a  
10  level of safety that is greater than, or equivalent to,  
11  the level of safety required by this chapter.

12          “(2) DETERMINATION.—

13          “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
14   issue an order under subparagraph (A) of sec-  
15   tion 60118(c)(1) to accomplish the purpose of  
16   a testing program for a term not to exceed the  
17   time period described in subsection (c) if the  
18   condition described in paragraph (1) is met, as  
19   determined by the Secretary.

20          “(B) LIMITATION.—An order under sub-  
21   paragraph (A) of such section shall pertain only  
22   to those regulations that would otherwise pre-  
23   vent the use of the safety technology to be test-  
24   ed under the testing program.

1       “(e) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing a testing  
2 program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall con-  
3 sider—

4               “(1) whether the owners or operators partici-  
5 pating in the program have a safety management  
6 system in place;

7               “(2) whether the proposed safety technology  
8 has been tested through a research and development  
9 program carried out by—

10                       “(A) the Secretary;

11                       “(B) collaborative research development  
12 organizations; or

13                       “(C) other institutions; and

14               “(3) whether the pipeline segments tested by  
15 the program are outside of a high population area  
16 (as defined in section 195.450 of title 49, Code of  
17 Federal Regulations).

18       “(f) DATA AND FINDINGS.—As a participant in a  
19 testing program established under subsection (a), an oper-  
20 ator shall submit to the Secretary detailed findings and  
21 a summary of data collected as a result of participation  
22 in the testing program.

23       “(g) AUTHORITY TO REVOKE PARTICIPATION.—The  
24 Secretary shall immediately revoke participation in a test-  
25 ing program under subsection (a) if—

1           “(1) the participant fails to comply with the  
2 terms and conditions of the testing program; or

3           “(2) in the determination of the Secretary, con-  
4 tinued participation in the testing program by the  
5 participant would be unsafe or would not be con-  
6 sistent with the goals and objectives of this chapter.

7           “(h) **AUTHORITY TO TERMINATE PROGRAM.**—The  
8 Secretary shall immediately terminate a testing program  
9 under subsection (a) if continuation of the testing pro-  
10 gram would not be consistent with the goals and objectives  
11 of this chapter.

12           “(i) **STATE RIGHTS.**—

13           “(1) **EXEMPTION.**—Except as provided in para-  
14 graph (2), if a State submits to the Secretary notice  
15 that the State requests an exemption from any test-  
16 ing program considered for establishment under this  
17 section, the State shall be exempt.

18           “(2) **LIMITATIONS.**—

19           “(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall  
20 not grant a requested exemption under para-  
21 graph (1) after a testing program is estab-  
22 lished.

23           “(B) **LATE NOTICE.**—The Secretary shall  
24 not grant a requested exemption under para-  
25 graph (1) if the notice submitted under that

1 paragraph is submitted to the Secretary more  
2 than 10 days after the date on which the Sec-  
3 retary issues an order providing an effective  
4 date for the testing program.

5 “(3) EFFECT.—If a State has not submitted a  
6 notice requesting an exemption under paragraph (1),  
7 the State shall not enforce any law (including regu-  
8 lations) that is inconsistent with a testing program  
9 in effect in the State under this section.

10 “(j) PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESS AND PUBLIC NO-  
11 TICE.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall publish  
13 in the Federal Register a notice of each testing pro-  
14 gram under subsection (a), including the order to be  
15 considered, and provide an opportunity for public  
16 comment for not less than 60 days.

17 “(2) RESPONSE FROM SECRETARY.—Not later  
18 than the date on which the Secretary issues an order  
19 providing an effective date of a testing program no-  
20 ticed under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall re-  
21 spond to each comment submitted under that para-  
22 graph.

23 “(k) REPORT.—At the conclusion of each testing pro-  
24 gram, the Secretary shall make publicly available on the

1 website of the Department of Transportation a report con-  
2 taining—

3 “(1) the findings and conclusions of the Sec-  
4 retary with respect to the testing program; and

5 “(2) any recommendations of the Secretary  
6 with respect to the testing program, including any  
7 recommendations for amendments to laws (including  
8 regulations) and the establishment of standards,  
9 that—

10 “(A) would enhance the safe operation of  
11 interstate gas or hazardous liquid pipeline fa-  
12 cilities; and

13 “(B) are technically, operationally, and  
14 economically feasible.

15 “(l) STANDARDS.—If a report under subsection (k)  
16 indicates that it is practicable to establish technically,  
17 operationally, and economically feasible standards for the  
18 use of a safety-enhancing technology and any cor-  
19 responding operational practices tested by the testing pro-  
20 gram described in the report, the Secretary, as soon as  
21 practicable after submission of the report, may promulgate  
22 regulations consistent with chapter 5 of title 5 (commonly  
23 known as the ‘Administrative Procedures Act’) that—



1           “(1) allow operators of interstate gas or haz-  
2           ardous liquid pipeline facilities to use the relevant  
3           technology or practice to the extent practicable; and

4           “(2) establish technically, operationally, and  
5           economically feasible standards for the capability  
6           and deployment of the technology or practice.”.

7           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
8           for chapter 601 of title 49, United States Code, is further  
9           amended by adding at the end the following:

          “60143. Pipeline safety technology testing programs.”.

10 **SEC. 12. PIPELINE SAFETY VOLUNTARY INFORMATION-**  
11 **SHARING SYSTEM.**

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

15 **“§ 60144. Voluntary information-sharing system**

16           “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

17           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability  
18           of funds, the Secretary may establish a confidential  
19           and nonpunitive voluntary information-sharing sys-  
20           tem (referred to in this section as the ‘System’) to  
21           encourage collaborative efforts to improve inspection  
22           information feedback and information sharing, with  
23           the purpose of improving natural gas transmission  
24           and hazardous liquid pipeline safety.

25           “(2) COMPONENTS.—The System—

1           “(A) shall include pipeline integrity risk  
2 analysis information; and

3           “(B) may include other information relat-  
4 ing to reducing pipeline incidents, such as—

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

7                   “(ii) process improvements;

8                   “(iii) technology deployments; and

9                   “(iv) other voluntary information-  
10 sharing systems.

11           “(3) REQUIREMENT.—The System shall protect  
12 proprietary information while encouraging the ex-  
13 change of data, including in-line inspection and dig  
14 verification data, among operators, tool vendors, and  
15 the representatives of the Secretary to facilitate the  
16 development of—

17                   “(A) advanced pipeline-inspection tech-  
18 nologies; and

19                   “(B) enhanced risk analysis.

20           “(4) CONSULTATION.—If appropriate, the Sec-  
21 retary may involve other public and private stake-  
22 holders in establishing and maintaining the System.

23           “(b) DATA MANAGER.—In carrying out this section,  
24 the Secretary may engage a partner agency or nongovern-

1 mental entity to receive, store, manage, and provide for  
2 the use of—

3 “(1) system data; and

4 “(2) information submitted to the System.

5 “(c) LIMITATION ON DISCLOSURE.—

6 “(1) APPLICABILITY OF FOIA.—Any part of any  
7 record (including, but not limited to an analysis by  
8 a pipeline operator of the safety risks of the pipeline  
9 operator and a statement of the mitigation measures  
10 identified by the pipeline operator to address those  
11 risks) provided to the Secretary and retained in the  
12 System is exempt from the requirements of section  
13 552 of title 5, and specifically exempt from release  
14 under subsection (b)(3) of that section, if the record  
15 is—

16 “(A) supplied to the Secretary for purposes  
17 of the System; or

18 “(B) made available for inspection and  
19 copying by an officer, employee, or agent of the  
20 Secretary for purposes of the System.

21 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph  
22 (1), the Secretary in consultation with the informa-  
23 tion owner, may disclose deidentified material or any  
24 part of any record comprised of facts otherwise  
25 available to the public if, in the sole discretion of the

1 Secretary, the Secretary determines that disclosure  
2 would be consistent with the confidentiality needed  
3 for the System and improve pipeline safety.

4 “(d) EXCLUDED EVIDENCE.—Except as provided in  
5 subsection (f), any data or information submitted to or  
6 stored, managed, analyzed, or produced by the System  
7 shall not be used—

8 “(1) as evidence for any purpose in any Fed-  
9 eral, State, local, Tribal, or private litigation, includ-  
10 ing any action or proceeding; or

11 “(2) to support any corrective action relating to  
12 a probable violation under this chapter (including  
13 any regulation promulgated or order issued under  
14 this chapter).

15 “(e) EXCLUSION FROM DISCOVERY.—Except as pro-  
16 vided in subsection (f), any data or information submitted  
17 to or stored, managed, analyzed, or produced by the Sys-  
18 tem shall not be subject to discovery in any Federal, State,  
19 local, Tribal, or private litigation or other proceeding.

20 “(f) LIMITATIONS ON EXCLUSION.—The exclusions  
21 described in subsections (d) and (e) shall not apply to—

22 “(1) evidence of a knowing and willful violation;

23 “(2) a reportable release under sections 191.7  
24 or 195.50 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations  
25 (or a successor regulation);

1           “(3) a safety-related condition under sections  
2           191.7 or 195.55 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-  
3           tions (or a successor regulation); or

4           “(4) data or information obtained by the Sec-  
5           retary independently of the System.

6           “(g) GOVERNING BOARD.—Not later than 180 days  
7           after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator  
8           shall establish a governing board co-chaired by the Admin-  
9           istrator and a representative of the pipeline industry to—

10           “(1) govern the System through consensus of  
11           the board and co-chairs;

12           “(2) develop governance documents and oversee  
13           their enforcement; and

14           “(3) establish and appoint members of issue  
15           analysis teams;

16           “(h) CONFIDENTIALITY.—No person, including any  
17           System governing board member, program manager,  
18           third-party data manager, issue analysis team member,  
19           nor any Federal, State, local or tribal agency, having or  
20           obtaining access to any data or information submitted to,  
21           stored, managed, analyzed or produced by the System,  
22           shall release or communicate that information to any per-  
23           son outside the System, with the sole exception being the  
24           publication of reports by the System based on analysis of  
25           de-identified information and safety related findings that

1 the System governing board in its sole discretion deter-  
2 mines to publish or authorize the Administration to pub-  
3 lish.

4 “(i) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—No person may  
5 be compelled to participate in or submit data or informa-  
6 tion to the System.

7 “(j) SUSTAINABLE FUNDING.—The Secretary shall  
8 explore sustainable funding sources for the System, in-  
9 cluding public-private partnerships.

10 “(k) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects any  
11 Federal or State pipeline safety law.

12 “(l) LIMITATION ON FUNDING.—The Secretary may  
13 expend not more than \$1,000,000 for each of the fiscal  
14 years 2020 through 2024 to establish the System.

15 “(m) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Notwithstanding the pro-  
16 tections provided under this section, no pipeline operator  
17 may use the submission of information to the System as  
18 protection against enforcement actions or corrective orders  
19 that are based on information or evidence obtained outside  
20 of the System.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
22 for chapter 601 of title 49, United States Code, is further  
23 amended by adding at the end the following:

“60144.Voluntary information-sharing system.”.

1 **SEC. 13. USER FEES.**

2 Section 60301(d)(1) of title 49, United States Code,  
3 is amended—

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

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

7 “(C) related to a liquefied natural gas  
8 pipeline facility may be used only for an activity  
9 related to liquefied natural gas pipeline facility  
10 under this chapter; and”.

11 **SEC. 14. USER FEES FOR UNDERGROUND NATURAL GAS**  
12 **STORAGE FACILITIES.**

13 Section 60302 of title 49, United States Code, is  
14 amended—

15 (1) in subsection (c)(2)—

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

18 (B) in subparagraph (B) by striking the  
19 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

21 “(C) may only be used to the extent pro-  
22 vided in advance in an appropriations Act.”;

23 (2) by striking paragraph (3) of subsection (c);

24 and

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

1           “(d) LIMITATIONS.—Fees imposed under subsection  
2 (a) shall be sufficient to pay for the costs of activities de-  
3 scribed in subsection (c), except that the total amount col-  
4 lected for a fiscal year may not be more than 105 percent  
5 of the total amount of the appropriations made for the  
6 fiscal year activities to be financed by fees.”.

7 **SEC. 15. LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS FACILITY SAFETY.**

8           (a) LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS FACILITY STANDARDS  
9 UPDATE.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after  
11 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
12 shall—

13                   (A) review the minimum operating and  
14 maintenance standards for liquefied natural gas  
15 facilities, including small scale liquefied natural  
16 gas facilities, peak shaving facilities, and large-  
17 scale liquefied natural gas facilities, prescribed  
18 under section 60103(d) of title 49, United  
19 States Code; and

20                   (B) based on the review under subpara-  
21 graph (A), update the safety standards de-  
22 scribed in that paragraph applicable to liquefied  
23 natural gas facilities to provide for a risk-based  
24 regulatory approach.



1           (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In updating the min-  
2           imum standards under paragraph (1)(B), the Sec-  
3           retary shall consider the report prepared under sub-  
4           section (d)(5).

5           (3) REQUIREMENTS.—The updates to the  
6           standards required under this section shall, at a  
7           minimum, require operators, consistent with recog-  
8           nized and generally accepted good engineering prac-  
9           tices—

10                   (A) to develop and maintain written safety  
11                   information identifying hazards associated  
12                   with—

13                           (i) the processes of liquefied natural  
14                           gas conversion, storage, and transport;

15                           (ii) equipment used in the processes;

16                           and

17                           (iii) technology used in the processes;

18                   (B) to conduct a hazard assessment, in-  
19                   cluding the identification of potential sources of  
20                   accidental releases, along with reassessments  
21                   periodically;

22                   (C) to establish a system to respond to the  
23                   findings of a hazard assessment conducted  
24                   under subparagraph (B) that addresses preven-  
25                   tion, mitigation, and emergency response; and

1 (D) to train employees in operating proce-  
2 dures with an emphasis on addressing hazards,  
3 using safe practices, and carrying out emer-  
4 gency response activities.

5 (b) LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS STAFFING AND EX-  
6 PERTISE.—

7 (1) LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS EXPERTISE.—  
8 Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment  
9 of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a division  
10 within the Office of Pipeline Safety to ensure the  
11 safety and oversight of liquefied natural gas facilities  
12 under section 60103 and 60111 of title 49, United  
13 States Code, including small-scale liquefied natural  
14 gas facilities, peak shaving facilities, and import or  
15 export facilities.

16 (2) FUNCTIONS.—The Liquefied Natural Gas  
17 division shall be responsible for—

18 (A) developing regulations and guidance  
19 materials for liquefied natural gas facilities;

20 (B) conducting compliance reviews and in-  
21 spections of liquefied natural gas facilities  
22 under section 60103 of title 49, United States  
23 Code;

24 (C) participate in liquefied natural gas fa-  
25 cility incident investigations;

1 (D) participate in enforcing applicable  
2 Federal statutes and regulations for the safety  
3 of liquefied natural gas facilities;

4 (E) conduct education, training, and out-  
5 reach regarding liquefied natural gas facility  
6 safety;

7 (F) manage the agency's research and de-  
8 velopment activities for liquefied natural gas fa-  
9 cilities; and

10 (G) perform other functions consistent  
11 with section 60103 and 60111 of such title.

12 (3) STAFFING.—The Secretary shall employ  
13 personnel necessary for carrying out the functions of  
14 the Liquefied Natural Gas division set forth in para-  
15 graph (2) including—

16 (A) a deputy associate administrator; and

17 (B) adequate staffing and support staff po-  
18 sitions, including subject matter experts in liq-  
19 uefied natural gas facilities who shall be dedi-  
20 cated to rulemaking activities, subject matter  
21 experts in liquefied natural gas facilities who  
22 shall perform inspection and enforcement activi-  
23 ties, and other necessary personnel to support  
24 these activities.

1           (4) LNG SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS.—To sat-  
2           isfy the requirements of paragraph (3), the Sec-  
3           retary may appoint personnel who have such exper-  
4           tise or may train personnel to develop such expertise  
5           through use of the Center of Excellence for Lique-  
6           fied Natural Gas Safety and Training.

7           (5) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the  
8           date of enactment of this Act, and every 90 days  
9           thereafter until the division is sufficiently staffed  
10          with LNG subject matter experts, the Secretary  
11          shall report to the Committee on Transportation and  
12          Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the  
13          Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House  
14          of Representatives, and the Committee on Com-  
15          merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on  
16          the progress to staff the division and any impedi-  
17          ments to staffing.

18          (c) CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR LIQUEFIED NAT-  
19          URAL GAS SAFETY AND TRAINING.—

20                (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after  
21                the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
22                shall establish a Center of Excellence for Liquefied  
23                Natural Gas Safety and Training (in this subsection  
24                referred to as the “Center”).

25                (2) FUNCTIONS.—The Center shall—

- 1 (A) promote, facilitate, and conduct—  
2 (i) education;  
3 (ii) training; and  
4 (iii) research and technological devel-  
5 opment;
- 6 (B) be a repository of information on best  
7 practices relating to, and expertise on, liquefied  
8 natural gas facility operations;
- 9 (C) foster collaboration among regulators,  
10 industry, and other stakeholders;
- 11 (E) promote process safety advancements  
12 for liquefied natural gas export facilities and  
13 the incorporation of risk-based principles into  
14 the operation, management, and regulatory  
15 oversight of LNG facilities; and
- 16 (F) other functions deemed appropriate by  
17 the Secretary.
- 18 (2) BRIDGE PERIOD.—Until the Center is oper-  
19 ational and able to meet the mission in paragraph  
20 (2), the Secretary may enter into an agreement with  
21 an institution of higher education or the LNG indus-  
22 try to provide education and training on the safe op-  
23 erations of liquefied natural gas facilities, provided  
24 that such period does not exceed 3 years.

1           (3) CONSULTATION.—When establishing the  
2 Center, the agency may consult with—

3           (A) Federal regulatory agencies of jurisdic-  
4 tion, including—

5                 (i) the Pipeline and Hazardous Mate-  
6 rials Safety Administration;

7                 (ii) the Federal Energy Regulatory  
8 Commission;

9                 (iii) the Department of Energy;

10                (iv) the U.S. Coast Guard; and

11                (v) the Maritime Administration.

12           (B) States and units of local government;

13           (C) Liquefied natural gas facility opera-  
14 tors; and

15           (D) other interested parties.

16       (d) LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS FEDERAL ADVISORY  
17 COMMITTEE.—

18           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days  
19 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
20 retary shall establish, in accordance with the re-  
21 quirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act  
22 (5 U.S.C. App.), a Liquefied Natural Gas Federal  
23 Advisory Committee (in this subsection referred to  
24 as the “Committee”).

25           (2) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

1 (A) facilitate communication between lique-  
2 fied natural gas facility operators, public safety  
3 experts, and Federal agencies on practices to  
4 ensure the safe operation and maintenance of  
5 liquefied natural gas facilities;

6 (B) provide the Secretary with timely in-  
7 formation about new liquefied natural gas facil-  
8 ity technology and safety practices and meth-  
9 odologies;

10 (C) provide a forum for the Secretary to  
11 provide information on and to discuss the ac-  
12 tivities of the Department of Transportation re-  
13 lating to liquefied natural gas facility safety,  
14 and the policies underlying such activities;

15 (D) advise the Secretary on how to pro-  
16 mote, facilitate, and conduct education, train-  
17 ing, and research on the industry best practices,  
18 industry consensus standards, and expertise in  
19 liquefied natural gas operations;

20 (E) advise the Secretary on how to recruit  
21 and retain qualified personnel;

22 (F) advise the Secretary regarding the reg-  
23 ulations prescribed under section 60103 of title  
24 49, United States Code, and when updates to  
25 such regulations are recommended; and

1 (G) advise the Secretary on other matters  
2 affecting LNG safety, as the Secretary con-  
3 siders appropriate.

4 (3) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall hold reg-  
5 ular meetings, not less than biannually, to discuss  
6 issues related to liquefied natural gas pipeline facil-  
7 ity safety.

8 (4) MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee shall be  
9 composed of the following members:

10 (A) Four individuals appointed by the Sec-  
11 retary to represent the public, such as public  
12 safety experts with knowledge of liquefied nat-  
13 ural gas pipeline facility safety, academics, or  
14 other qualified individuals.

15 (B) Four individuals appointed by the Sec-  
16 retary to represent States and units of local  
17 governments.

18 (C) Four individuals appointed by the Sec-  
19 retary to represent the liquefied natural gas in-  
20 dustry, two of whom shall represent large-scale  
21 liquefied natural gas facilities, one from a  
22 small-scale facility, and one with peak shaving  
23 operations.



1 (D) Not less than one representative of the  
2 following Federal regulatory agencies of juris-  
3 diction:

4 (i) The Pipeline and Hazardous Mate-  
5 rials Safety Administration.

6 (ii) The Maritime Administration.

7 (iii) The Federal Energy Regulatory  
8 Commission.

9 (iv) The Coast Guard.

10 (5) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—Not later  
11 than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act,  
12 the Committee shall—

13 (A) review regulations issued pursuant to  
14 section 60103(d) of title 49, United States  
15 Code for conformity with industry standards  
16 that apply risk-based principles for process  
17 safety practices; and

18 (B) provide a report and recommendation  
19 to the Secretary on how to best align regula-  
20 tions with industry standards that apply risk-  
21 based principles for process safety practices.

22 (6) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90  
23 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and not  
24 less frequently than every 30 days thereafter until  
25 the date on which all members of the Committee

1 have been appointed, the Secretary shall submit a  
2 report to the Committee on Transportation and In-  
3 frastructure of the House of Representatives, the  
4 Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House  
5 of Representatives, and the Committee on Com-  
6 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate to  
7 update Congress on the status of the Committee, the  
8 progress of appointing members to the Committee,  
9 and the identities of individuals appointed to the  
10 Committee.

11 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
12 are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of  
13 Transportation such sums as may be necessary to carry  
14 out this section.

15 **SEC. 16. UNUSUALLY SENSITIVE AREAS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the  
17 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-  
18 tation shall complete the revision required under section  
19 19(b) of the PIPES Act of 2016 (49 U.S.C. 60109 note).

20 (b) FURTHER REQUIREMENT.—In completing the re-  
21 vision described in subsection (a), the Secretary of Trans-  
22 portation shall use the following definitions:

23 (1) MARINE COASTAL WATER.—The term “ma-  
24 rine coastal water” means the territorial sea of the  
25 United States, the Great Lakes and their connecting

1 waters, the marine and estuarine waters of the  
2 United States up to the head of tidal influence, and  
3 the Exclusive Economic Zone as established by Pres-  
4 idential Proclamation Number 5030, dated March  
5 10, 1983.

6 (2) COASTAL BEACH.—The term “coastal  
7 beach” means land between high and low water  
8 marks in a marine coastal water.

9 **SEC. 17. WORKFORCE.**

10 (a) STAFFING.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
12 the date of enactment, the Secretary shall increase  
13 the number of full-time equivalent employees (as  
14 compared to the number of positions on the date of  
15 enactment of this Act) by—

16 (A) at least 8 full-time employees with sub-  
17 ject matter expertise in pipeline safety, pipeline  
18 facilities, and pipeline systems to finalize out-  
19 standing pipeline safety rulemakings and fulfill  
20 mandates for the Office of Pipeline Safety of  
21 the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety  
22 Administration; and

23 (B) at least 3 full-time attorneys with  
24 pipeline industry of safety expertise in the Of-

1            fice of Chief Counsel of the Pipeline Hazardous  
2            Materials Safety Administration.

3            (2) PIPELINE INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT  
4            PERSONNEL.—The Secretary shall ensure that the  
5            number of positions for pipeline inspection and en-  
6            forcement personnel in the Office of Pipeline Safety  
7            of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Ad-  
8            ministration does not fall below the following:

9                    (A) 222 for fiscal year 2020.

10                   (B) 233 for fiscal year 2021.

11                   (C) 245 for fiscal year 2022.

12                   (D) 258 for fiscal year 2023.

13                   (E) 272 for fiscal year 2024.

14            (b) RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION AUTHORITIES.—  
15            Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this  
16            Act, the Secretary shall request authority from the Office  
17            of Personnel Management to use incentives, as necessary,  
18            to recruit and retain a qualified workforce, including—

19                    (1) for inspection and enforcement personnel  
20                    and subject matter experts dedicated to rulemaking  
21                    activities in the Office of Pipeline Safety, including  
22                    the Liquefied Natural Gas division of the Pipeline  
23                    Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, as es-  
24                    tablished under section 16(b)—

1 (A) special pay rates permitted under sec-  
2 tion 5305 of title 5, United States Code; and

3 (B) repayment of student loans accom-  
4 panied by a continued service agreement, per-  
5 mitted under section 5379 of title 5, United  
6 States Code;

7 (2) for the Deputy Associate Administrator of  
8 the Liquefied Natural Gas division in the Office of  
9 Pipeline Safety, as established under section 16(b),  
10 critical position pay permitted under section 5377 of  
11 title 5, United States Code.

12 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after  
14 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator  
15 shall transmit to the Committees on Transportation  
16 and Infrastructure and the Committee on Energy  
17 and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and  
18 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-  
19 portation of the Senate, a report that contains—

20 (A) the number of full-time personnel the  
21 agency has hired to meet the requirements of  
22 subsection (a), as well as the total number of  
23 personnel employed by the Administrator;

24 (B) a description of the agency's efforts to  
25 comply with subsection (b);

1 (C) a description of the personnel of the  
2 Liquefied Natural Gas division in the Office of  
3 Pipeline Safety, any impediments to hiring, and  
4 any personnel constraints affecting the ability  
5 of the agency to fulfill the authorities of such  
6 division; and

7 (D) any other details associated with the  
8 agency's progress toward fulfilling the staffing  
9 levels and pursuing the financial incentives as  
10 directed by this section.

11 (2) UPDATES TO REPORT.—Not later than 90  
12 days after the date on which the report is trans-  
13 mitted under paragraph (1) and not later than every  
14 90 days thereafter until all statutory mandates  
15 under this section are met, the Administrator shall  
16 transmit an updated report that describes the ac-  
17 tions taken since the previous report.

18 **SEC. 18. NATIONWIDE INTEGRATED PIPELINE SAFETY REG-**  
19 **ULATORY DATABASE.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
21 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-  
22 tation shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations  
23 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
24 Appropriations of the Senate a report describing the re-  
25 sources necessary for the Pipeline and Hazardous Mate-

1 rials Safety Administration to establish the national inte-  
2 grated pipeline safety regulatory inspection database de-  
3 scribed in the report required under section 11(a) of the  
4 PIPES Act of 2016 (49 U.S.C. 60108 note).

5 (b) CONTENTS.—The report required to be submitted  
6 under subsection (a) shall include—

7 (1) a description of the steps necessary for the  
8 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Adminis-  
9 tration and State pipeline regulators to establish  
10 such database; and

11 (2) a timeline for the completion of such data-  
12 base.

13 **SEC. 19. REGULATORY UPDATES.**

14 (a) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET REVIEW  
15 OF REGULATIONS.—Not later than 5 days after the date  
16 on which an outstanding regulation has been under review  
17 by the Office of Management and Budget for more than  
18 90 days, and every 15 days thereafter until the regulation  
19 is published in the Federal Register, the Secretary of  
20 Transportation shall notify the Committee on Transpor-  
21 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives,  
22 the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House  
23 of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce,  
24 Science, and Transportation of the Senate that the out-

1 standing regulation remains under review by the Office of  
2 Management and Budget.

3 (b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “out-  
4 standing regulation” means a regulation regarding pipe-  
5 line facilities required under this Act or an Act enacted  
6 prior to the date of enactment of this Act for which a final  
7 rule has not been published in the Federal Register.

8 **SEC. 20. CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVALS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
10 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue  
11 such regulations as are necessary to require that before  
12 a distribution pipeline construction project begins, the  
13 plans for such project shall be approved by a professional  
14 engineer, a subject matter expert, or other qualified pro-  
15 fessional who possesses the necessary knowledge, experi-  
16 ence, and skills regarding natural gas distribution sys-  
17 tems, as determined by the Secretary.

18 (b) ACCESS TO RECORDS.—In issuing the regulations  
19 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that the  
20 any individuals approving projects under subsection (a)  
21 are provided access to all relevant records and prior work  
22 plans needed to approve the safety of the construction  
23 project.



1 (c) APPLICATION.—Section 60118(e)(1) of title 49,  
2 United States Code, shall not apply to a regulation issued  
3 under subsection (a).

4 **SEC. 21. REPORT ON EMISSIONS.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
6 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-  
7 portation shall enter into an agreement with the National  
8 Academy of Sciences to conduct a study on technologies  
9 and measures that reduce the amount of natural gas re-  
10 leased during venting and blowdowns of natural gas dis-  
11 tribution systems and transmission pipelines.

12 (b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the study, the  
13 National Academy of Sciences may consult entities with  
14 expertise in the causes and effects of natural gas releases  
15 and the use of technologies or measures that prevent or  
16 mitigate releases of natural gas during venting and  
17 blowdowns of natural gas distribution systems and trans-  
18 mission pipelines.

19 (d) REPORT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months  
21 after the date on which the National Academy of  
22 Sciences initiates the study, the National Academy  
23 of Sciences shall submit to the Committee on Trans-  
24 portation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-  
25 resentatives, the Committee on Energy and Com-

1 merce of the House of Representatives, and the  
2 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-  
3 tation of the Senate a report on the technologies and  
4 measures described in subsection (a).

5 (2) CONTENTS.—The report required under  
6 paragraph (1) shall include—

7 (A) an analysis of the amount of natural  
8 gas released during venting and blowdowns of  
9 natural gas distribution systems and trans-  
10 mission pipelines;

11 (B) an analysis of the environmental and  
12 health impacts of releases of natural gas during  
13 such venting and blowdowns; and

14 (C) an evaluation of pipeline technologies  
15 or measures capable of safely and effectively re-  
16 ducing the amount of natural gas released, in-  
17 cluding—

18 (i) an analysis of the environmental  
19 and health benefits resulting from lower  
20 natural gas releases as a result of using  
21 such technologies or measures;

22 (ii) an analysis of the economic value  
23 of the natural gas that is prevented from  
24 being released as a result of the tech-  
25 nologies or measures;

1 (iii) an analysis of the cost of using  
2 such technologies or measures, including  
3 the cost to operators and any impacts on  
4 pipeline safety and reliability;

5 (iv) an analysis of factors that affect  
6 the feasibility and effectiveness of using  
7 such technologies and measures; and

8 (v) a determination of whether the  
9 benefits described in clauses (i) and (ii)  
10 outweigh the costs described in clause (iii).

11 **SEC. 22. CHANGES IN CLASS LOCATION.**

12 Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment  
13 of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue  
14 final regulations that permit the use of integrity manage-  
15 ment program requirements, or elements thereof, to man-  
16 age the safety of gas transmission pipeline segments that  
17 experience a change in class location. Such regulations  
18 shall be an alternative to the requirements of section  
19 192.611 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, as in  
20 effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

