



COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Ranking Member Peter DeFazio

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FACT SHEET

S. 2276, THE PROTECTING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE OF PIPELINES AND ENHANCING SAFETY ACT OF 2016 (PIPES ACT OF 2016)

June 6, 2016

- S. 2276 is a bipartisan bill and is supported by Ranking Member Peter DeFazio and Subcommittee Ranking Member Michael Capuano. The bill represents an agreement among the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
- The bill authorizes **\$720 million** for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) pipeline safety program over four years (FY 2016 – FY 2019), including \$211 million for grants to States and \$6 million for grants to local communities and pipeline safety advocacy groups to conduct pipeline studies and public awareness campaigns.
- The bill provides the Secretary of Transportation with **emergency order authority** to impose certain emergency restrictions and safety measures on pipeline operators to address an imminent hazard resulting from a pipeline incident or unsafe practice.
- The bill requires pipeline operators to provide **detailed information on any spilled oil** to Federal and state responders within six hours of a spill.
- The bill **boosts funding for grants to States** to help them administer their pipeline safety programs; streamlines the process for States to receive grants; allows States to participate in joint inspections with PHMSA on interstate pipeline facilities; and provides \$1.1 million annually for One-Call grants to help States protect residents and communities from pipeline accidents caused by excavation.
- The bill requires PHMSA to **establish safety standards for underground natural gas storage tanks**, and allows States to go above and beyond Federal regulations for regulating intrastate facilities.
- The bill ensures that pipeline operators consider the impact of oil spills into navigable waters or adjoining shorelines in developing their oil spill response plans, and ensures the Great Lakes, coastal beaches, and marine coastal areas are considered high-consequence areas. This designation ensures that pipeline operators are regularly inspecting pipelines in these areas and making necessary repairs.