



CARBON CAPTURE COALITION

MEMORANDUM

Date: 10/10/2025

Subject: Pipeline Integrity, Protection, and Enhancement for Leveraging Investments in the Nation's Energy to assure Safety Act of 2025 (PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025)

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview and analysis of the provisions of the *PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025* (the bill) most relevant to carbon management, identifying key clauses, potential impacts, and recommended actions for the Carbon Capture Coalition (the Coalition).

Overview of the Legislation

- **Title/Name of Legislation:** PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025
- **Bill Type:** Reauthorization; specified amounts below
- **Bill Number:** S. 2975
- **Sponsor(s):** Sens. Ted Cruz (R-TX); Maria Cantwell (D-WA); Todd Young (R-IN); Gary Peters (D-MI)
- **Date Introduced:** 10/06/2025
- **Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee; Reported out of Committee on October 21, 2025
- **Summary:** The bill reauthorizes appropriations for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), through fiscal year (FY) 2030 and details specific initiatives PHMSA should take to assess pipeline safety regulations for updates.

Key Provisions Related to Carbon Management

- **Sec. 102:** Authorizes to be appropriated for necessary operational expenses of PHMSA through fiscal year 2030:
 - \$33 million for FY2026
 - \$34 million for FY 2027
 - \$35 million for FY 2028
 - \$36 million for FY2029
 - \$37 million for FY2030
- **Sec. 210:** Mandates PHMSA to gather data on and study the safety of composite materials used in pipelines, including CO₂ pipelines.
- **Sec. 215:** Mandates DOT to update existing regulations to require assessments of threats to pipelines (including carbon dioxide pipelines) posed by geological hazards.
- **Sec. 402:** Mandates DOT publish final rules governing CO₂ pipeline safety within 2 years of enactment, pursuant to rulemaking proceeding RIN 2137-AF60. Specifies the rule must address:

- Emergency planning;
- Vapor dispersion modeling to identify high-consequence areas (HCAs) that could be affected by leaks;
- Prohibiting CO₂ from being used as a testing medium for spike hydrostatic pressure testing;
- **Sec. 402(c):** DOT must enter into an MOU with a National Laboratory to study the feasibility of adding odorant to CO₂ pipelines and submit a report to Congress within 2 years.

Potential Impacts

- **Impact on Coalition Priorities:** The legislation incorporates several of the Coalition's pipeline safety recommendations, including emergency planning and first responder coordination, and geohazard impacts in pipeline management plans, into the bill's text.
- **Economic Impact:** Total recommended authorizations are \$175 million, FY2026-2030.
- **Legislative Impact:** Amends 60125(a) of title 49 of the US Code to reauthorize PHMSA for five years through the year 2030.

Stakeholder Positions

- **Supporters:**
 - Primary Sponsors:
 - **Sen. Cruz (R-TX):** has underscored the importance of reauthorizing PHMSA for Texas' oil and gas industry and has touted its relevance to economic opportunity in Texas; emphasized the bill's focus on data-driven and cost-effective standards for pipeline oversight.
 - **Sen. Cantwell (D-WA):** highlighted provisions for increased civil penalties, addressing gaps in requirements for hydrogen and carbon dioxide pipelines, and mandating permanent cybersecurity standards.
 - Others:
 - The bill has received support from various industry associations, including the American Gas Association (AGA), American Petroleum Institute (API), American Public Gas Association (APGA), GPA Midstream Association, Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA), and Liquid Energy Pipeline Association (LEPA). The Damage Prevention Action Center (DPAC) also supports the bill, particularly for its incentives for states to adopt practices to prevent damage to underground utilities.
- **Opponents:** More than 120 organizations, led by Food & Water Watch and the Eco-Justice Collaborative, sent a letter to the Senate Commerce Committee in October 2025 opposing the bill. They point to incidents like the 2020 CO₂ pipeline rupture in Satartia, Mississippi, which led to numerous hospitalizations, as evidence of inadequate regulation. Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA) stated his opposition, arguing that the bill does not adequately address safety risks and allows pipeline developers to profit from taxpayer subsidies while local communities are left unprepared for disasters.