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6 MARKUP ON:

7 H.R. _____ (DUNCAN), PIPELINE SAFETY, MODERNIZATION, AND
8 EXPANSION ACT;

9 H.R. _____, TO PROHIBIT THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY FROM
10 PRESCRIBING OR ENFORCING ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR
11 CLOTHES WASHERS THAT ARE NOT COST-EFFECTIVE OR
12 TECHNOLOGICALLY FEASIBLE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES;

13 H.R. _____, TO PROHIBIT THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY FROM
14 PRESCRIBING OR ENFORCING ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR
15 CLOTHES DRYERS THAT ARE NOT COST EFFECTIVE OR TECHNOLOGICALLY
16 FEASIBLE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES;

17 H.R. _____, TO PROHIBIT THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY FROM
18 PRESCRIBING OR ENFORCING ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS ON
19 DISHWASHERS THAT ARE NOT COST EFFECTIVE OR TECHNOLOGICALLY
20 FEASIBLE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES;

21 H.R. _____, TO PROHIBIT THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY FROM

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22 PRESCRIBING OR ENFORCING ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR
23 REFRIGERATORS, REFRIGERATOR-FREEZERS, AND FREEZERS THAT ARE
24 NOT COST-EFFECTIVE OR TECHNOLOGICALLY FEASIBLE, AND FOR OTHER
25 PURPOSES;

26 H.R. _____, TO PROHIBIT THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY FROM
27 PRESCRIBING OR ENFORCING ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR
28 ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS THAT ARE NOT COST-EFFECTIVE OR
29 TECHNOLOGICALLY FEASIBLE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

30 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024

31 House of Representatives,

32 Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security

33 Committee on Energy and Commerce,

34 Washington, D.C.

35

36

37 The Subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10:02 a.m.,
38 in Room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Chair Jeff
39 Duncan [Chairman of the Subcommittee] presiding.

40 Present: Representatives Duncan, Burgess, Latta,
41 Guthrie, Griffith, Bucshon, Walberg, Palmer, Curtis, Lesko,
42 Pence, Weber, Balderson, Pfluger, and Rodgers (ex officio);

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43 DeGette, Peters, Matsui, Tonko, Kuster, Schrier, Castor,
44 Sarbanes, Cardenas, and Pallone (ex officio).

45 Staff Present: Kate Arey, Digital Director; Sarah
46 Burke, Deputy Staff Director; David Burns, Professional Staff
47 Member; Jerry Couri, Deputy Chief Counsel; Nick Crocker,
48 Senior Advisor & Director of Coalitions; Sydney Greene,
49 Director of Operations; Rebecca Hagigh, Executive Assistant;
50 Jessica Herron, Clerk; Nate Hodson, Staff Director; Calvin
51 Huggins, Staff Assistant; Tara Hupman, General Counsel; Noah
52 Jackson, Clerk; Daniel Kelly, Press Assistant; Sean Kelly,
53 Press Secretary; Lauren Kennedy, Clerk; Alex Khlopin, Staff
54 Assistant; Peter Kielty, General Counsel; Emily King, Member
55 Services Director; Elise Krekorian, Counsel; Drew Lingle ,
56 Professional Staff Member; Mary Martin, Chief Counsel;
57 Brandon Mooney, Deputy Chief Counsel; Kaitlyn Peterson,
58 Clerk; Karli Plucker, Director of Operations (Shared Staff);
59 Carla Rafael, Senior Staff Assistant; Emma Schultheis, Clerk;
60 Peter Spencer, Senior Professional Staff Member; Dray Thorne,
61 Director of Information Technology; Keegan Cardman, Minority
62 Staff Assistant; Timia Crisp, Minority Professional Staff
63 Member; Waverly Gordon, Minority Deputy Staff Director and

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64 General Counsel; Tiffany Guarascio, Minority Staff Director;
65 Caitlin Haberman, Minority Staff Director, Environment,
66 Manufacturing, and Critical Minerals; Perry Hamilton,
67 Minority Member Services & Outreach Manager; Elysa Montfort,
68 Press Secretary; Kristopher Pittard, Professional Staff
69 Member; Emma Roehrig, Minority Staff Assistant; and Kylea
70 Rogers, Minority Policy Analyst; Medha Surampudy,
71 Professional Staff Member; Tuley Wright, Staff Director,
72 Energy Climate and Grid Security; Deyona Burton; Intern.
73

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74 *Mr. Duncan. The Subcommittee will come to order.

75 The Chair recognizes himself for an opening statement.

76 I want to thank you all for being here and welcome to
77 the Energy, Climate, Grid Security Subcommittee Markup.

78 Today, we will be marking up six bills to continue our
79 work in delivering affordable and reliable energy to all
80 Americans.

81 The first bill we have taken up is my discussion draft,
82 the pipeline safety. Actually, that is wrong. We are going
83 to take that up at the end. So we will be taking up this
84 Pipeline Safety Modernization Act last. We are going to take
85 up a series of bills to stop the Biden Administration's war
86 on American home appliances first.

87 On pipeline safety. With the Pipeline Safety
88 Modernization and Accountability Act of 2024, the Energy and
89 Commerce Committee is getting back to its long history of
90 reauthorizing the relative agencies and programs under this
91 Committee's jurisdiction.

92 Our bill would reauthorize the Pipeline and Hazardous
93 Materials Safety Administration's, PHMSA, Pipeline Safety
94 Program for five years and update policies to construct and

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95 operate pipelines.

96 We had PHMSA in front of the Committee and we have
97 learned a lot. Energy and Commerce Committee plays a
98 critical role in reauthorizing PHMSA and ensuring the agency
99 complies with its statutory mandates and maintains a strong
100 focus on public safety.

101 In January this year, we had a legislative hearing where
102 we heard from PHMSA deputy administrator Tristan Brown. He
103 discussed PHMSA's current operations, the agency's
104 implementation of Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines
105 and Enhancing Safety or the PIPES Act of 2020.

106 We also heard from a stakeholder panel who gave us their
107 perspective on PHMSA's implementation of the PIPES Act and
108 what needs to be done to ensure PHMSA is operating
109 efficiently and effectively.

110 Based on this feedback, we updated our discussion draft
111 to include many provisions from the Transportation
112 Infrastructure Committee's bill, which was reported out of
113 their Committee by voice vote in December of last year.

114 Some of these provisions include technical changes to
115 eliminate natural gas leaks, opportunities for formal

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116 hearings, clarifications on maximum allowable operating
117 pressure, excavation damage prevention, class location rule
118 making requirement, and inspection of in-service breakout
119 tanks.

120 T&I's bill is an important approach reauthorizing PHMSA.
121 Because the Energy and Commerce Committee has broader
122 jurisdiction over federal agencies, our draft legislation
123 reflects a comprehensive approach to reauthorize PHMSA's
124 safety programs and update policies for pipeline permitting.

125 It is no secret; the United States is in desperate need
126 of expanded pipeline and energy infrastructure. Through
127 hearings on this Committee, we have heard warnings from
128 energy reliability experts, grid operators, and FERC
129 commissioners that the lack of pipeline capacity in this
130 country is contributing to reliability issues.

131 Unfortunately, this Administration has not taken these
132 warnings seriously in continue efforts to block oil and gas
133 development in the United States. Pipelines all over the
134 country have been delayed and ultimately canceled as a result
135 of permitting challenges and lawsuits funded and backed by
136 radical environmental groups.

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137 My draft legislation addresses this by strengthening
138 penalties for damaging pipelines and incorporating permitting
139 reform centered on safety, modernization, and expansion. It
140 improves pipeline safety by updating PHMSA programs to
141 reflect new technologies.

142 It puts an end to gas bans by protecting American
143 people's right to choose energy source that fits their needs.
144 Pipelines are essential to the energy security of the United
145 States and I would like to say all my colleagues join me in
146 support of this effort.

147 Now, the first four bills will take up our home
148 appliances and another avenue by which this Administration
149 has waged war on oil and gas is through aggressive and
150 illegal energy efficiency mandates.

151 This Administration is using efficiency and appliance
152 standards to pursue climate objectives over consumer choice.
153 These standards will increase the cost of appliances and
154 limit the availability of consumer options.

155 Last year, the Biden Administration began its assault on
156 home appliance home appliances by trying to ban gas stoves.
157 Now, they are trying to impose new mandates on virtually

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158 every appliance in your home.

159 These bills that we are reviewing today address washing
160 machines, clothes dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators,
161 freezers, and room air conditioners. These bills are simple.
162 They prohibit the Secretary of Energy from imposing new
163 efficiency mandates or enforcing existing standards for these
164 particular appliances unless the standards are cost effective
165 and technologically feasible, save the consumers money, and
166 save a significant amount of energy.

167 I hope that all members of the Subcommittee, both
168 Republican and Democrat, would support the energy efficiency
169 standards as long as the technology exists to meet them.
170 They keep more money in Americans' pockets and they save
171 energy.

172 So in conclusion, all of the bills we are reviewing
173 today are in discussion draft format. We are open to
174 continuing work with our colleagues on both sides of the
175 aisle on these efforts.

176 I will now recognize the Ranking Member DeGette to get
177 for five minutes.

178 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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179 Well, I am going to talk about the Pipeline Safety Bill
180 primarily. The PHMSA Office of Pipeline Safety is charged
181 with regulating the safety of onshore pipelines in the United
182 States.

183 PHMSA sets the safety standards that pipelines must
184 comply with and inspects interstate pipelines. In 2020,
185 Congress passed the PIPES Act of 2020, which reauthorized,
186 PHMSA's pipeline safety activities for three years.

187 The safety provisions included in this act are very
188 important. They mandate the pipeline operators to carry out
189 leak detection and repair programs on their own pipelines,
190 require strength and state standards for the safety of LNG
191 facilities and expand safety requirements and regulations to
192 nearly 500,000 miles of gathering pipelines.

193 As we know from past occurrences, pipelines are
194 dangerous when neglected, and there are fatal incidents every
195 year. On average, there are over 600 pipeline safety
196 incidents each year resulting in 31 injuries and ten deaths.

197 In this legislation, safety is not a part of the
198 formula. Committee Republicans allowed PHMSA's most recent
199 pipeline safety reauthorization to expire months ago without

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200 taking any action whatsoever. And now they are trying to
201 advance a reckless partisan draft bill.

202 They are abdicating their responsibility to protect the
203 American people from dangerous pipelines. The pipeline
204 Safety Authorization Bill, enacted in 2020, expired last
205 September. Nothing happened during the first year of the
206 Republican majority to reauthorize the program.

207 The only thing that has happened is this draft bill full
208 of partisan poison pill provisions. Ranking Member Pallone
209 and I sent a letter to Chairs Rogers and Duncan last
210 September, requesting that the Energy, Climate, and Grid
211 Subcommittee hold an oversight hearing of the pipeline safety
212 programs.

213 Republicans' lack of action is a total departure from
214 the typical bipartisan reauthorization process, and it is the
215 complete opposite of how we proceeded with the
216 reauthorization four years ago when Democrats were in the
217 majority.

218 The Republican majority just does not seem to be serious
219 about pipeline safety because this bill is never going to
220 become law. The funding, for example, would be a \$42 million

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221 cut below current authorized levels.

222 And, also, this funding is significantly less than the
223 authorization in the T&I bill, which proposed an average of
224 \$80 million more each year for pipeline safety.

225 In the meantime, the Democrats have been focused on
226 getting the agency the resources it needs. The bipartisan
227 infrastructure law provided \$1 billion for investments in the
228 say in the safety of natural gas distribution pipelines, and
229 president Biden's Fiscal Year 2024 budget requested a \$38
230 million increase for PHMSA's pipeline safety budget.

231 The Republican bill contains multiple poison pill
232 provisions that are completely unrelated to safety. One of
233 these provisions allows FERC to effectively overrule any
234 other agency in the pipeline permitting system.

235 Instead of pushing a partisan bill with giveaways to the
236 fossil fuel industry that, as I said, will not become law,
237 Republicans should join us in developing a bill that ensures
238 that PHMSA has the staffing and resources necessary to
239 implement its own mission.

240 Now, as the Chairman mentioned, we're also marking up
241 five anti-efficiency bills that would delay and weaken

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242 popular energy efficiency programs.

243 Each of these bills are intended to get the DOE's
244 ability to finalize and enforce efficiency standards related
245 to different household appliances. Each of the bills targets
246 the Energy Conservation Standards Program established in the
247 Energy Policy and Conservation Act, which would impede DOE's
248 ability to finalize and enforce efficiency standards for
249 clothes washers, dryers, refrigerators, dishwashers, and room
250 air conditioners.

251 None of these bills had a legislative hearing. Frankly,
252 these efforts not only save on energy, they also save money
253 for our constituents. So I really don't have any idea why we
254 would pass this legislation.

255 Americans will save \$570 billion and reduce greenhouse
256 gas emissions by more than 2.4 billion metric tons over the
257 next 30 years under these standards. Newly proposed
258 standards for water heaters alone could save households over
259 \$200 a year.

260 Why? Why would we stop this? Our constituents want to
261 save this money, and it is also good for the environment. So
262 let's get real. I keep saying this. I feel like a broken

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263 record.

264 Let's work in a bipartisan way, and let's try to get
265 some of these things fixed. I yield back.

266 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady yields back.

267 I will now recognize chair of the full Committee, Chair
268 Rodgers, for five minutes.

269 *The Chair. Most agree that global demand for liquid
270 fuels will continue to grow through at least 2050. As the
271 world's number one producer of oil and natural gas, we have
272 an opportunity to cement America's energy leadership for
273 decades to come.

274 Today, the US has more than 3.4 million miles of
275 pipelines. To meet growing energy demands, we must modernize
276 and expand our pipeline infrastructure. The US has been
277 blessed with an abundance of natural resources right under
278 our feet, which we have been able to harness as a result of
279 free market principles and an and an entrepreneurial spirit
280 that is uniquely American.

281 We should be embracing this and building on it to
282 enhance America's energy security and competitive edge. At
283 the same time, we also need to ensure Americans are free to

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284 choose the home appliances that work best for their lives.

285 This Subcommittee will continue our important work
286 through regular order to achieve these goals. We will be
287 considering several bills that will update the nation's
288 pipeline safety laws and stop the Biden Administration's war
289 on America's home appliances.

290 This Committee's hearings with PHMSA, DOE, and FERC have
291 all made clear the need for legislation to modernize our
292 energy infrastructure and expand our pipeline system.

293 Additionally, Congress must act to reform DOE's energy
294 efficiency authorities and prevent the Biden Administration
295 from mandating standards that are neither cost effective nor
296 technologically feasible.

297 The Pipeline Safety Modernization and Expansion Act, led
298 by Chairman Duncan, will reduce energy prices for the
299 American people, strengthen pipeline and LNG facility safety,
300 and drive innovation in new technologies.

301 It will reauthorize PHMSA for five years and increase
302 the budget for state pipe pipeline safety inspectors who the
303 majority have the responsibility for the majority of the
304 work.

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305 We believe that states should see a higher share of
306 PHMSA's budget than they are currently receiving. Chairman
307 Duncan's legislation will also strengthen the reliability of
308 our electric grid by encouraging the expansion of pipeline
309 network in existing right of ways, by stopping states and
310 local governments from blocking the flow of natural gas and
311 other fuels from being delivered to homes and power plants.

312 Today's markup also will consider solutions to
313 strengthen energy efficiency. This picks up from where we
314 left off in December's full Committee markup.

315 The Department of Energy is waging war on Americans'
316 home appliances. Early last year, the Biden Administration's
317 DOE announced a ban on gas stoves. The House responded with
318 an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote to stop this terribly
319 misguided rule from taking effect.

320 Regrettably, the Biden Administration has since
321 announced new mandates for dozens more home appliances. If
322 it is not stopped, the Administration's plans will impose
323 burdensome and costly efficiency mandates for virtually every
324 appliance in your home.

325 Today, the Subcommittee will consider legislation to

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326 protect appliances across the board from washing machines,
327 dryers, and dishwashers, to refrigerators, freezers, and air
328 conditioners.

329 These efficiency bills would prohibit the Secretary of
330 Energy from imposing new efficiency mandates or enforcing
331 existing standards unless they pass a simple three-part test.

332 First, DOE's efficiency standards must prove they are
333 cost effective and technologically feasible. Second, they
334 must save consumers money. And third, they must save a
335 significant amount of energy.

336 There is nothing controversial about this approach. If
337 DOE and the Democrats on this Committee and in the House
338 support efficiency mandates and saving Americans money, join
339 us.

340 Join us in advancing these bills to restrict DOE from
341 overstepping its statutory authority. House Republicans will
342 continue to put the American people first. Our economy,
343 energy security, and the environment will only benefit from
344 America's energy leadership and people's ability to have the
345 freedom to choose home appliances that best fit their needs
346 and preferences.

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347 These bills are an important step to expand access to
348 affordable and reliable energy. I want to thank Chairman
349 Duncan and all the Subcommittee members for your work on
350 these bills. I yield back.

351 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady yields back.

352 I now recognize the Ranking Member of the full
353 Committee, Mr. Pallone from New Jersey, for five minutes.

354 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

355 Today, the Subcommittee is finally holding a markup on
356 pipeline safety more than five months after the most recent
357 pipeline safety reauthorization expired.

358 Unfortunately, once again, all our Republican majority
359 has to offer today is a reckless partisan bill that has very
360 little to do with safety and everything to do with gutting
361 environmental reviews to build more pipelines.

362 And this is in stark contrast to the bipartisan bill
363 passed by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
364 late last year.

365 The Subcommittee is also considering five extreme, anti-
366 energy efficiency bills that stand no chance of becoming law.
367 After today, the Subcommittee will have marked up 37 bills

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368 this Congress, and only one has been led by a Democrat.

369 Last week, we successfully moved our nuclear package
370 through the House, but that bipartisan effort has been an
371 anomaly among the barrage of hyper-partisan bills that this
372 Subcommittee has moved forward this Congress.

373 And I cannot emphasize enough. It did not have to be
374 this way. The issues before us today used to be bipartisan
375 issues. Republicans used to work with us on pipeline safety.

376 In fact, the Republicans on the Transportation Committee
377 did just that, and Republicans used to work with us on energy
378 efficiency.

379 Democrats are willing to continue working in a
380 bipartisan fashion on these issues, but the Republican
381 majority's actions have told us all we need to know, that
382 they have no interest in passing durable legislation that can
383 make it to the president's desk.

384 They are only interested in scoring political points
385 even if it means undermining pipeline safety or raising
386 America's energy bills. And as a result, none of these bills
387 will ever become law.

388 Now let's start with the Republican so-called Pipeline

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389 Safety Bill. Throughout this congress, Republicans have
390 shirked their duty to reauthorize the Pipeline and Hazardous
391 Material Safety Administration or PHMSA's pipeline safety
392 responsibilities.

393 They never held an oversight hearing. They never made
394 an effort to sit down and discuss shared priorities.
395 Instead, they simply circulated a partisan draft bill focused
396 more on building pipelines than safety mere weeks before
397 PHMSA's reauthorization, or authorization expired.

398 Now, reauthorizing pipeline safety programs and moving a
399 bipartisan bill takes collaboration, communication, and good
400 faith negotiation. None of that has occurred here. Even
401 now, Republicans remain completely unwilling to work with us
402 in addressing their bills poison pill provisions that would
403 gut environmental reviews, allow pipeline companies to
404 override state decisions, and recklessly build those through
405 the pipeline permitting process to allow industry to build as
406 many pipelines as it wants.

407 Even more radically, their bill would slash
408 authorizations for pipeline safety activities by \$42 million
409 per year or nearly 20 percent. It would fund PHMSA at levels

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410 \$22 million below the bipartisan spending bill that we are
411 set to pass tomorrow or today, I guess.

412 In other words, this bill asked PHMSA to do more with
413 less and is singularly focused on building more pipelines. I
414 want to be clear. A vote for this bill in its current form
415 is a vote to make pipelines more dangerous.

416 Demanding that PHMSA regulate more pipelines with less
417 money is a recipe for pipeline disaster, not pipeline safety.
418 Last year, 22 Americans died in pipeline related incidents.

419 Any pipeline safety legislation must be exclusively
420 focused on safety and how to get more resources to PHMSA's
421 programs, not less.

422 In addition to this dangerous pipeline bill, Republicans
423 have included in today's markup five bills, gutting
424 efficiency standards for America's household appliances.

425 These bills did not receive a legislative hearing. We
426 did not even receive the text of these bills until late last
427 week, and we have not received any expert witness testimony
428 on them.

429 What we do know is that these five bills are
430 deliberately designed to obstruct the Department of Energy's

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431 Appliance Efficiency Program. They rely on the same old
432 tricks to slow down and burden an already rigorous energy
433 efficiency standard setting process.

434 DOE already has a thorough process to set standards for
435 household appliances, and that process already includes
436 assessing whether new standards are technologically feasible
437 and economically justified.

438 The fact is that energy efficiency standards are
439 popular, common sense, and a low-cost tool to save Americans
440 money on the energy bills.

441 Collectively, the Biden Administration's past and
442 planned energy efficient actions will save Americans \$570
443 billion over the next 30 years. That is a significant
444 savings for families.

445 What is even more absurd is that four out of these five
446 anti-efficiency bills target appliance standards that were
447 included in recent consensus recommendations from both
448 appliance manufacturers and advocates.

449 So that means Republicans are targeting efficiency
450 standards that the industry supports. All the bills on
451 today's market were nothing more than bad faith messaging

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452 bills designed to help Republicans and their corporate
453 polluter friends, not America's families.

454 These bills have no future. They prove just how far the
455 Republican majority has strayed from the kind of thoughtful
456 bipartisanship that we have historically seen on these
457 important issues.

458 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of
459 my time.

460 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

461 Committee members are reminded to opening statements
462 will be made part of the record. Let's get to work.

463 Chair calls up the discussion draft to prohibit the
464 Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy
465 conservation standards for closed washers that are not cost
466 effective or technologically feasible and ask the clerk to
467 report.

468 *The Clerk. Committee print, a bill to prohibit the
469 Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy
470 conservation standards.

471 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, the first reading is
472 dispensed with and discussion draft be open for amendment at

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473 any point.

474 So ordered.

475 Does anyone seek recognition on the discussion draft?

476 I move to strike the last word.

477 [The bill follows:]

478

479 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

480

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481 *Mr. Duncan. I recognize myself and move to strike the
482 last word and speak in favor of the Committee print to
483 prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or
484 enforcing energy conservation standards related to closed
485 washers that are not cost effective or technologically
486 feasible.

487 This bill is pretty straightforward. It clarifies the
488 intent of the Energy Policy Conservation Act, which requires
489 the Department of Energy to find that new standards will
490 result in significant conservation of energy and are
491 technologically feasible and economically justified before
492 moving forward with the standard.

493 Unfortunately, the Biden administration has repeatedly
494 ignored these requirements. Just last week, the Department
495 of Energy released the final efficiency standards for
496 residential clothes dryers and washers.

497 The final rule for residential clothes washers published
498 February 29, 2024, will apply to top loading and front-
499 loading washers. Compliance with the standards will be
500 required by March 1st of 2028.

501 This new rule faces legal uncertainty and will increase

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502 the already high cost for clothes dryers. Some estimates
503 predict the new standards for washing machines would increase
504 per unit prices by as high as \$200.

505 Under the APCA, these standards are intended to save
506 energy and money for consumers. Unfortunately, the Biden
507 Administration's prioritized radical efficiency groups over
508 low-income residents, renters, and first-time homebuyers.

509 This has resulted in standards which will increase
510 prices for these critical home appliances, reduce consumer
511 choices, and impair their performance.

512 Let me just say this. I represent Newberry County,
513 South Carolina. Samsung builds washing machines in my
514 district. Visit the plant. The water efficiency standards,
515 the other efficient standards that they implement while
516 remaining very competitive in the market place is important
517 to Samsung. It is important to the jobs that they create
518 there and a lot of my constituents.

519 And raising the per unit prices by as high as \$200 per
520 washing machine is just not economically feasible for
521 constituents and average Americans.

522 So I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill,

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523 which prioritizes affordability and consumer choice for all
524 Americans.

525 And with that, I yield back.

526 Is there anyone else?

527 Mr. Pallone is recognized for five minutes.

528 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
529 strike the last word.

530 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

531 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you.

532 The five appliance efficiency discussion drafts before
533 us today are all very similar, so I am going to speak in
534 opposition to all of them at once.

535 This markup is the first time we have seen these bills.
536 They haven't been officially introduced, and we haven't had a
537 legislative hearing on them. We don't have any expert
538 testimony on these bills or their effects.

539 And the thing is expert testimony would be really
540 helpful here. These discussion drafts use a lot of vague and
541 duplicative language. In some places, they restate what is
542 already in law.

543 In other places, they introduced new ambiguous

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544 thresholds for appliance conservation standards, and we have
545 no idea what these bills mean or what they do. But we can
546 read between the lines.

547 These bills are obviously designed to weaken the
548 Department of Energy's ability to finalize and enforce
549 conservation standards for common household appliances. They
550 employ the same Republican tactics that we have seen over and
551 over this congress, and the strategy doesn't make any sense.

552 These bills even target appliance efficiency standards
553 that have industry support. Four out of the five of the
554 appliances targeted by these bills were included in a
555 consensus agreement between industry and efficiency advocates
556 last September.

557 Industry supports these standards, and it is ridiculous
558 that Republicans continue to go after them. Now what is also
559 surprising me to me that these bills are even before us
560 today.

561 These five bills look very similar to Representative
562 Lesko's H.R. 6192, the Hands Off Our Home Appliance Act,
563 which passed the Committee in December. H.R. 6192 applied
564 similar changes to the entire efficiency program as opposed

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565 to today's focused approach on individual appliances.

566 So is the majority abandoning the Lesko bill and its
567 attack on the program as a whole for this more tailored
568 approach?

569 I can think of no other reason why applying the policies
570 in her bill, to specific appliances would make sense. Now,
571 the thing is we all know that none of these bills are
572 becoming law.

573 Rather than focusing on issues where we can work
574 together and help everyday Americans, Republicans continue
575 their tired attack on programs like energy conservation
576 standards that are working well and helping Americans save
577 money.

578 And this is clearly designed to score political points
579 at the expense of everyday Americans. So there really isn't
580 much more to say here, Mr. Chairman. Conservation standards
581 are popular. They save money on utility bills. They reduce
582 emissions. I just wish the majority would realize their
583 persistent attacks on energy efficiency are just a waste of
584 time.

585 So, therefore, I would urge my colleagues to vote

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586 against all five of these duplicative, unnecessary bills.

587 And with that, I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

588 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back. Any other
589 members seeking recognition?

590 The gentlelady from Arizona, Ms. Lesko, is recognized
591 for five minutes.

592 *Ms. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

593 I am in strong support of these individual, I call them
594 Hands Off Our Home Appliances Bill and my bill that already
595 passed through the Committee called Hands Off Our Home
596 Appliances.

597 And the reason it is needed is because I hear from
598 constituents that say their appliances aren't working. You
599 know, the Administration has just gone too far. They have
600 gone too far when appliances don't even work properly because
601 of the strict standards that the Biden Administration is
602 putting forward.

603 I mean, it is too extreme when the Biden Administration
604 is doing all of these radical things because of the radical
605 constituency that he has in order to win an election.

606 The problem is is the average person doesn't realize why

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607 their dishwasher isn't working as well. Why their dishwasher
608 takes so many hours to do it. They don't understand why
609 their washing machine or dryer isn't working as good as their
610 old one when they have to replace it.

611 The reason is all these crazy regulations, and that is
612 why the Republicans want to keep consumer choice. They want
613 to be able to allow consumers to purchase, you know, a good
614 working, reliable washers, dryers, dishwashers, not have the
615 government mandate to individuals what kind of appliances
616 they can buy.

617 I mean, this is just typical government from the top
618 down telling our consumers, our constituents, what they can
619 and cannot buy just like they have done with the mandate on
620 all electric vehicles, and this has got to stop.

621 And that is why I support this bill and my Hands Off Our
622 Home Appliances Bill and I yield back.

623 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady yields back.

624 Anyone else seeking recognition on the bill?

625 Mr. Tonko is recognized for five minutes.

626 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike the
627 last word.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

628 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

629 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you. Mr. Chair, I express my
630 opposition to all five energy efficiency proposals under
631 consideration today.

632 Energy efficiency must be our fuel of choice whenever
633 possible. We know the cheapest watt of electricity is the
634 one that does not need to be generated in the first place.

635 And DOE's efficiency standard setting process has a long
636 track record of working and working effectively. It has been
637 proven to provide Americans with significant energy and
638 utility bill savings.

639 Blocking the implementation and enforcement of
640 standards, including recently finalized standards that were
641 recommended in a landmark agreement between American
642 manufacturers and energy efficiency advocates, would deny
643 these benefits to our consumers.

644 It is clear that China and other foreign competitors
645 that want to dump cheap, inefficient, and ineffective
646 products into the US market without concerns for the
647 operating costs or energy use of American households stand to
648 benefit from weak standards and a non-enforcement policy.

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649 It is also clear, based on testimony from numerous
650 witnesses at the Subcommittee's hearings on reliability, that
651 more efficient appliances play an important role in enhancing
652 and in managing grid reliability.

653 We are expecting US electricity demand to grow in the
654 future due to the Biden Administration led manufacturing
655 renaissance, as well as the widespread adoption of EVs and
656 heat pumps.

657 This is an incredibly exciting and transformational
658 moment for our electricity sector. Why would we not seek to
659 reduce existing demand in cost effective ways that benefit
660 consumers in order to better integrate these new loads?

661 Mr. Chair, these five proposals are bad for American
662 consumers. They are bad for American manufacturers. They
663 are bad for the people responsible for ensuring grid
664 reliability.

665 So with that, I urge members to oppose each of them.
666 And with that, I yield back, Mr. Chair.

667 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

668 Is there any other member seeking recognition on the
669 bill?

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670 Are there any bipartisan amendments?

671 Ms. Castro is recognized for five minutes.

672 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
673 the last word.

674 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady is recognized.

675 *Ms. Castor. Thank you. Energy efficient appliances
676 save American families and businesses money every day. These
677 kind of standards helps spur innovation among manufacturers.
678 I mean, just think about it. Think back to the appliances
679 your grandparents had and then your parents, they were even
680 better.

681 And today, there are all sorts of energy efficient
682 appliances, modern appliances that use less energy, and they
683 reduce electric bills for families who need it.

684 So this is really bad public policy to gut energy
685 efficiency standards. It is not the serious work that
686 Americans expect from the Congress and especially this
687 Committee.

688 Ranking Member Pallone called it absurd. I think that
689 is apt. I also think it is embarrassing. It is embarrassing
690 that you are siding with oil and gas industry over our

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691 neighbors back home who could use a little bit of money back
692 in their pocket when they purchase, you know, make a big
693 purchase on their home appliance.

694 It is a slap in the face to the manufacturers who, in
695 many cases, have agreed to these standards. And I think that
696 is one of the reasons why you spurred these bills on. You
697 brought them as a surprise.

698 There haven't been any hearings on this because I think
699 what you would hear from a lot of the industry manufacturers
700 is that they agree. That is why the Department of Energy,
701 Congress directed the Department of Energy when they go and
702 update energy efficiency standards.

703 They require the agency to determine whether the
704 standards are economically justifiable, whether they are
705 technologically feasible for the appliance manufacturers.

706 This bill would gut that process. You are going to
707 substitute your judgment, the judgment of the oil and gas
708 industry, and, utilities who love to have consumers spend as
709 much as possible.

710 Well, I am going to side with my neighbors back home who
711 like energy efficiency standards. They like modern

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712 appliances. They need relief from their high electric bills
713 right now.

714 Energy efficiency standards also used to have bipartisan
715 support. And I think across the country, if you would ask,
716 if I go down my street and I ask my neighbors, no matter how
717 they are registered, do they support energy efficient
718 appliances, it is not going to matter how they are
719 registered.

720 But something happens when you bring these things
721 through Congress. It gets warped by the oil and gas lobby,
722 and that that has just been a theme of this Congress,
723 unfortunately.

724 More efficient appliances like air conditioners and
725 dishwashers, not only help my neighbors save money every
726 month by using less energy to cool their homes and clean
727 their dishes.

728 This, relief is especially important to working class
729 Americans who are often over overburdened by the cost of
730 electricity. And I really do not appreciate you trying to
731 stick them with higher electric bills.

732 And I want to I want to thank the Biden Administration

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733 and the Department of Energy for working to promote energy
734 efficiency, as Congress has directed, by making sure that
735 manufacturers continue to innovate and produce appliances
736 that save consumers money.

737 You know, if a consumer were to swap the least efficient
738 model today for their washers to meet the common models
739 available under the new energy efficiency standards, they
740 would save about a \$120 per year according to water one
741 analysis.

742 So I am asking all of you, reject the Republican and oil
743 and gas industry's attempt to raise cost, to gut energy
744 efficiency standards, and hike our energy bills.

745 And I am going to yield the balance of my time to Mr.
746 Cardenas.

747 *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you for your efficiency and
748 allowing me a minute.

749 I just want to point out the inefficiency of the process
750 that the Republicans have chosen to take today. They have a
751 separate bill just for clothes washers, a separate bill just
752 for clothes dryers, a separate bill for dishwashers, and a
753 separate bill for refrigerators, and a separate bill for air

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754 conditioners.

755 Could they at least be efficient in trying to save us
756 time, energy, and all the above by just combining them all in
757 one because they all boil down to the same thing.

758 They refuse to recognize efficiency and saving time,
759 energy, and money, et cetera, et cetera. I just wanted to
760 point out that just glaring example of the inefficiency of my
761 Republican colleagues even in the process of legislating.

762 And with that, I yield back.

763 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

764 Any further discussion?

765 All right. Seeing there is no further discussion, the
766 vote will occur on the bill.

767 *Mr. Palmer. Mr. chairman?

768 *Mr. Duncan. Yes.

769 *Mr. Palmer. If I may, I would like to speak on the
770 bill.

771 *Mr. Duncan. Mr. Palmer, you are recognized for five
772 minutes.

773 *Mr. Palmer. You know, I sit here and listen to my
774 Democratic colleagues talk about this and how certain

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775 neighborhoods want these much more expensive appliances. I
776 think in a lot of those neighborhoods, those people can
777 afford them.

778 But in the area where I grew up, where I spent my
779 boyhood, they can't afford that. These bills are absolutely
780 necessary as a first step, of many steps, to offset the
781 massive increase in the cost of household utilities and in
782 groceries because of the inflation brought on by the policies
783 of the Biden Administration and by bills passed by the
784 Democratic majority in the last Congress.

785 Grocery prices are up, Mr. Chairman, over 21 percent. I
786 visited the Central Alabama Food Bank a week ago, Monday. I
787 was really surprised to find out how many senior citizens are
788 having to rely on the Food Bank for their groceries because
789 they cannot afford their household utilities and their
790 medicine and their groceries.

791 Inflation has done that to people. And what we are
792 trying to do is to protect people's ability to make a living,
793 to be able to support their families, to be able to feed
794 themselves for crying out loud.

795 So, you know, when we get into these issues, there is a

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796 reason why the American people are looking to us for
797 solutions, because they have suffered under the Biden
798 Administration and under the policies and the bills, the
799 legislation passed by our Democratic colleagues when they had
800 the majority in the last Congress.

801 And I hate to bring this up, but, you know, when we talk
802 about pipelines, first thing popped in my head is that
803 pipeline bringing illegal migrants into this country, that
804 they refused to close that pipeline.

805 With that, Mr. chairman, I yield back.

806 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

807 Any further discussion?

808 Seeing none, we will now, call for the vote on the
809 clothes dryer's bill.

810 And all those in favor, say aye.

811 Any opposed, nay?

812 In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it.

813 *Ms. DeGette. Recorded vote.

814 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady request for recorded vote.
815 The clerk will call the roll.

816 *The Clerk. Burgess?

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817 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

818 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

819 Latta?

820 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

821 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

822 Guthrie?

823 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

824 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

825 Griffith?

826 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

827 *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

828 Bucshon?

829 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

830 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

831 Wahlberg?

832 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.

833 *The Clerk. Wahlberg votes aye.

834 Palmer?

835 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

836 *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.

837 Curtis?

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

838 (No response.)
839 *The Clerk. Lesko?
840 *Ms. Lesko. Aye.
841 *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.
842 Pence?
843 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
844 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.
845 Armstrong?
846 *Mr. Armstrong. Aye.
847 *The Clerk. Armstrong votes aye.
848 Weber?
849 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
850 *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.
851 Balderson?
852 (No response.)
853 *The Clerk. Pflugger?
854 (No response.)
855 *The Clerk. Duncan?
856 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.
857 *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.
858 DeGette?

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859 *Ms. DeGette. No.
860 *The Clerk. DeGette votes no.
861 Peters?
862 *Mr. Peters. No.
863 *The Clerk. Peters votes no.
864 Fletcher?
865 (No response.)
866 *The Clerk. Matsui?
867 *Ms. Matsui. No.
868 *The Clerk. Matsui votes no.
869 Tonko?
870 *Mr. Tonko. No.
871 *The Clerk. Tonko votes no.
872 Veasey?
873 (No response.)
874 *The Clerk. Kuster?
875 *Ms. Kuster. No.
876 *The Clerk. Kuster votes no.
877 Schreier?
878 *Ms. Schrier. No.
879 *The Clerk. Schreier votes no.

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880 Castor?

881 *Ms. Castor. No.

882 *The Clerk. Castor votes no.

883 Sarbanes?

884 *Mr. Sarbanes. No.

885 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes no.

886 Cardenas?

887 *Mr. Cardenas. No.

888 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes no.

889 Blunt Rochester?

890 (No response.)

891 *The Clerk. Pallone?

892 *Mr. Pallone. No.

893 *The Clerk. Pallone votes no.

894 Chair Rodgers?

895 *The Chair. Aye.

896 *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers votes aye.

897 *Mr. Duncan. Are there any members unrecorded?

898 Mr. Pfluger, how is he recorded?

899 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger is not recorded.

900 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

901 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes aye.

902 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Balderson recorded?

903 *The Clerk. Balderson is not recorded.

904 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

905 *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.

906 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Curtis recorded?

907 *The Clerk. Curtis is not recorded.

908 *Mr. Curtis. Aye.

909 *The Clerk. Curtis votes aye.

910 *Mr. Duncan. Any other members unrecorded?

911 Seeing none, the clerk will report total.

912 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote, there were 16
913 ayes and 10 noes.

914 *Mr. Duncan. The ayes have it.

915 The discussion draft will be sent to the floor.

916 We will move on to the next bill.

917 Chair calls up discussion draft to prohibit the
918 Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy
919 conservation standards for clothes dryers that are not cost
920 effective or technologically feasible and ask clerk to
921 report.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

922 *The Clerk. Committee print, a bill to prohibit the
923 Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy
924 conservation standards for clothes dryers that are not _

925 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, the first reading is
926 dispensed with.

927 The discussion draft be open for amendment at any point
928 so ordered.

929 Any member seeking recognition on the draft?

930 Mr. Wahlberg is recognized for five minutes.

931 [The bill follows:]

932

933 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

934

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935 *Mr. Walberg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
936 strike the last word and speak in favor?

937 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

938 *Mr. Walberg. I speak in favor of the Committee print
939 to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or
940 enforcing energy conservation standards related to clothes
941 dryers that are not cost effective or technologically
942 feasible.

943 I think many here have experienced the unfortunate
944 situation when you run your dryer and because of new
945 efficiency updates, it decides on its own. When your clothes
946 are dry and it shuts off, then you are stuck with damp
947 clothes you have to run through again, wasting more time,
948 more money, and more electricity.

949 This bill is straightforward. It clarifies intent of
950 the Energy Policy Conservation Act, which requires the
951 Department of Energy find that new standards will result in a
952 significant conservation of energy and are technologically
953 feasible and economically justified before moving forward
954 with the standard.

955 Unfortunately, the Biden Administration has repeatedly

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956 ignored these requirements. This bill is especially prudent
957 given the Department of Energy recently set final efficiency
958 standards for residential dryers, residential clothes
959 washers, and dryers.

960 The final rule for residential clothes dryers published
961 on February 29, 2024, will apply to both electric and gas
962 models. Compliance with the standard is required by March 1,
963 2028.

964 This new rule faces legal uncertainty and will increase
965 the already high cost of clothes dryers. I urge all of my
966 colleagues to support this bill, which prioritizes
967 affordability and consumer choice for all Americans.

968 Thank you, and I yield back.

969 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

970 Any other member seeking recognition on the bill?

971 Seeing none, we will now ask any other any amendments,
972 bipartisan or no amendments at all?

973 We will now move to a vote.

974 All those in favor of passing the bill, say aye.

975 Any opposed, nay?

976 *Mr. Duncan. In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have

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977 it and a recorded vote has been requested, so the clerk will
978 call the roll.

979 *The Clerk. Burgess?

980 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

981 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

982 Latta?

983 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

984 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

985 Guthrie?

986 (No response.)

987 *The Clerk. Griffith?

988 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

989 *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

990 Bucshon?

991 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

992 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

993 Wahlberg?

994 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.

995 *The Clerk. Wahlberg votes aye.

996 Palmer?

997 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

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998 *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.
999 Curtis?
1000 (No response.)
1001 *The Clerk. Lesko?
1002 *Ms. Lesko. Aye.
1003 *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.
1004 Pence?
1005 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
1006 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.
1007 Armstrong?
1008 *Mr. Armstrong. Aye.
1009 *The Clerk. Armstrong votes aye.
1010 Weber?
1011 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
1012 *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.
1013 Balderson?
1014 *Mr. Balderson. Yes.
1015 *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.
1016 Pfluger?
1017 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
1018 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1019 Duncan?
1020 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.
1021 *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.
1022 DeGette?
1023 *Ms. DeGette. No.
1024 *The Clerk. DeGette votes no.
1025 Peters?
1026 *Mr. Peters. No.
1027 *The Clerk. Peters votes no.
1028 Fletcher?
1029 (No response.)
1030 *The Clerk. Matsui?
1031 *Ms. Matsui. No.
1032 *The Clerk. Matsui votes no.
1033 Tonko?
1034 *Mr. Tonko. No.
1035 *The Clerk. Tonko votes no.
1036 Veasey?
1037 (No response.)
1038 *The Clerk. Kuster?
1039 *Ms. Kuster. No.

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1040 *The Clerk. Kuster votes no.
1041 Schreier?
1042 *Ms. Schrier. No.
1043 *The Clerk. Schreier votes no.
1044 Castor?
1045 *Ms. Castor. No.
1046 *The Clerk. Castor votes no.
1047 Sarbanes?
1048 *Mr. Sarbanes. No.
1049 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes no.
1050 Cardenas?
1051 *Mr. Cardenas. No.
1052 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes no.
1053 Blunt Rochester?
1054 (No response.)
1055 *The Clerk. Pallone?
1056 *Mr. Pallone. No.
1057 *The Clerk. Pallone votes no.
1058 Rodgers?
1059 *The Chair. Aye.
1060 *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers votes aye.

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1061 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Guthrie recorded?

1062 *Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie votes aye.

1063 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

1064 *Mr. Duncan. Mr. Curtis?

1065 *The Clerk. Curtis is not recorded.

1066 *Mr. Curtis. Aye.

1067 *The Clerk. Curtis votes aye.

1068 *Mr. Duncan. Any member unrecorded?

1069 The clerk will report.

1070 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote there were 16
1071 ayes and 10 noes.

1072 *Mr. Duncan. The bill is agreed to.

1073 The Chair will now call up the discussion draft to
1074 prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or
1075 enforcing energy conservation standards for dishwashers.

1076 They are not cost effective or technologically feasible
1077 and ask the clerk to report.

1078 *The Clerk. Committee print a bill to prohibit the
1079 Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy
1080 conservation standards for dishwashers that are not cost
1081 effective or technologically _

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1082 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, the first reading is
1083 suspended with and the discussion draft be open for amendment
1084 anytime.

1085 So ordered.

1086 Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

1087 Mr. Latta is recognized.

1088 *Mr. Latta. Thank you, Mr. chairman. Strike the last
1089 word?

1090 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

1091 *Mr. Latta. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1092 I move to speak in favor of the Committee print to
1093 prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or
1094 enforcing energy conference reservation standards related to
1095 dishwashers that are neither cost effective nor
1096 technologically feasible.

1097 The Committee print is straightforward. It clarifies
1098 intent of the Energy Policy Conservation Act, which requires
1099 the Department of Energy find that efficiency standards they
1100 set meet three requirements.

1101 Number one, they conserve significant amounts of energy.
1102 Number two, they are technologically feasible. And number

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1103 three, they are economically justified.

1104 Unfortunately, the Biden Administration has ignored
1105 these requirements and issued a notice of proposed rulemaking
1106 for dishwashers in May of 2023.

1107 According to Biden Administration's proposed rule, it
1108 would take over 12 years for the proposed efficiency upgrades
1109 to pay themselves back. That means the American consumer
1110 will have to pay more money upfront for a dishwasher that
1111 they won't get paid back on for 12 years.

1112 This new stringent energy and water efficiency standard
1113 for dishwashers will make existing matters even worse for
1114 everyday Americans. Under one estimate, these new efficiency
1115 standards may increase the cost by over \$200 per appliance.

1116 The cost of these efficiency standards is being passed
1117 on directly to the consumer. Americans have already been
1118 facing record high levels inflation.

1119 It is apparent that stringent efficiency standards and
1120 home appliance that are just part of the broader Biden
1121 Administration effort to pursue climate policies over all
1122 else.

1123 Just recently, the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals

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1124 determined the Biden Administration's dishwasher rule did not
1125 adequately consider appliance performance in its actions.

1126 This further proves the Biden Administration is
1127 repelling repeatedly ignored the statutory obligations and
1128 prioritized the wishes of the radical environmental groups
1129 over the American consumer.

1130 With that, I urge all my colleagues to support this
1131 legislation which prioritizes affordability and consumer
1132 choice for all Americans.

1133 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of
1134 my time.

1135 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

1136 Any other members seeking recognition on the bill?

1137 Don't see any of the amendments for the bill.

1138 Seeing no amendments being offered, the question now
1139 occurs on forwarding the discussion draft to the full
1140 Committee, actually, to the floor not to the full Committee.

1141 All those in favor, say aye.

1142 Any opposed, nay.

1143 In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it.

1144 A roll call vote has been requested, so the clerk will

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1145 call the roll.

1146 *The Clerk. Burgess?

1147 (No response.)

1148 *The Clerk. Latta?

1149 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

1150 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

1151 Guthrie?

1152 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

1153 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

1154 Griffith?

1155 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

1156 *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

1157 Bucshon?

1158 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

1159 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

1160 Wahlberg?

1161 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.

1162 *The Clerk. Wahlberg votes aye.

1163 Palmer?

1164 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

1165 *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1166 Curtis?

1167 (No response.)

1168 *The Clerk. Lesko?

1169 *Ms. Lesko. Aye.

1170 *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.

1171 Pence?

1172 *Mr. Pence. Aye.

1173 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

1174 Armstrong?

1175 (No response.)

1176 *The Clerk. Weber?

1177 *Mr. Weber. Aye.

1178 *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.

1179 Balderson?

1180 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

1181 *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.

1182 Pfluger?

1183 (No response.)

1184 *The Clerk. Duncan?

1185 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.

1186 *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1187 DeGette?
1188 *Ms. DeGette. No.
1189 *The Clerk. DeGette votes no.
1190 Peters?
1191 *Mr. Peters. No.
1192 *The Clerk. Peters votes no.
1193 Fletcher?
1194 (No response.)
1195 *The Clerk. Matsui?
1196 *Ms. Matsui. No.
1197 *The Clerk. Matsui votes no.
1198 Tonko?
1199 *Mr. Tonko. No.
1200 *The Clerk. Tonko votes no.
1201 Veasey?
1202 (No response.)
1203 *The Clerk. Kuster?
1204 *Ms. Kuster. No.
1205 *The Clerk. Kuster votes no.
1206 Schreier?
1207 *Ms. Schrier. No.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1208 *The Clerk. Schreier votes no.
1209 Castor?
1210 *Ms. Castor. No.
1211 *The Clerk. Castor votes no.
1212 Sarbanes?
1213 *Mr. Sarbanes. No.
1214 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes no.
1215 Cardenas?
1216 *Mr. Cardenas. No.
1217 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes no.
1218 Blunt Rochester?
1219 (No response.)
1220 *The Clerk. Pallone?
1221 *Mr. Pallone. No.
1222 *The Clerk. Pallone votes no.
1223 Rodgers?
1224 *The Chair. Aye.
1225 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.
1226 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Burgess recorded?
1227 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess is not recorded.
1228 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1229 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

1230 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Curtis recorded?

1231 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis is not recorded.

1232 *Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes aye.

1233 *The Clerk. Curtis votes aye.

1234 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Pfluger recorded?

1235 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger is not recorded.

1236 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

1237 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes aye.

1238 *Mr. Duncan. Any other member unrecorded?

1239 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

1240 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote there were 15
1241 ayes and 10 noes.

1242 *Mr. Duncan. The bill has passed and it will be moved
1243 on to the full Committee.

1244 The Chair will now call up the discussion draft to
1245 prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or
1246 enforcing energy conservation standards for refrigerators,
1247 refrigerator freezers, and freezers that are not cost
1248 effective or technologically feasible, and ask the clerk to
1249 report.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1250 *The Clerk. Committee print, a bill to prohibit the
1251 Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy
1252 conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator
1253 freezers, and freezers that are not cost effective or not _

1254 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, the first reading is
1255 dispensed with and the discussion draft will be open for
1256 amendment at any point.

1257 So ordered.

1258 Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

1259 Mr. Balderson is recognized.

1260 [The bill follows:]

1261

1262 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1263

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1264 *Mr. Balderson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1265 I move to strike the last word and speak in support of
1266 the Committee print.

1267 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman's recognized.

1268 *Mr. Balderson. I am proud to support this
1269 straightforward legislation, which clarifies the intent of
1270 Energy Policy Conservation Act.

1271 The bill requires the Department of Energy to confirm
1272 that new efficiency standards will result in a significant
1273 conservation of energy and that these standards are
1274 technologically feasible and economically justified before
1275 moving forward.

1276 These efficiency standards are supposed to be about
1277 saving energy and saving money. Unfortunately, that has not
1278 been the case under this Administration.

1279 On January 17th, the Biden Administration issued a
1280 direct final rule to regulate refrigerators and freezers.
1281 The regulation will increase prices for these essential home
1282 appliances, reduce consumer choices, and impair their
1283 performance.

1284 DOE argues that new efficiency mandates will eventually

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1285 save consumers money, but how many years do they have to
1286 wait? According to DOE's technical support documents, a
1287 simple payback period for refrigerators and freezers could be
1288 ten years. That's right. Ten years for a product that is
1289 usually only expected to last 14 to 15 years.

1290 The Biden Administration wants everyone, including low-
1291 income residents, renters, and first-time home buyers to pay
1292 more for energy efficiency appliances with the false promise
1293 that they will break even in ten years.

1294 Reforms to the Department's authority to impose sweeping
1295 efficiency mandates are long overdue.

1296 Thank you, Chairman Duncan, for holding this markup. I
1297 urge support for the Committee print, and I yield back.

1298 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

1299 Anyone seeking recognition?

1300 I recognize myself. I move to strike the last word and
1301 recognize myself.

1302 I have another manufacturer in my district. That is
1303 Electrolux. They roll a refrigerator off the line every four
1304 seconds. To watch the efficiency of the workers to build
1305 very efficient refrigerators, refrigerator freezers, And also

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1306 see the R&D that goes in to a refrigerator is amazing.

1307 Again, this company tries to meet efficiency standards,
1308 be competitive in the marketplace, creates thousands of jobs,
1309 and provides cost efficient appliances for everyday
1310 Americans.

1311 So I would urge my colleagues to support this bill. And
1312 with that, I yield back.

1313 *Mr. Duncan. Anyone else seeking recognition?

1314 Seeing none, any amendments to the bill?

1315 Seeing none, we will now go to a vote.

1316 All those in favor of passing the bill to full Committee
1317 will say, aye.

1318 Any opposed, nay?

1319 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it.

1320 A roll call vote has been requested and the clerk will
1321 roll call the roll.

1322 *The Clerk. Burgess?

1323 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

1324 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

1325 Latta?

1326 (No response.)

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1327 *The Clerk. Guthrie?
1328 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
1329 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.
1330 Griffith?
1331 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
1332 *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.
1333 Bucshon?
1334 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.
1335 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.
1336 Wahlberg?
1337 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.
1338 *The Clerk. Wahlberg votes aye.
1339 Palmer?
1340 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
1341 *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.
1342 Curtis?
1343 (No response.)
1344 *The Clerk. Lesko?
1345 *Ms. Lesko. Aye.
1346 *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.
1347 Pence?

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1348 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
1349 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.
1350 Armstrong?
1351 (No response.)
1352 *The Clerk. Weber?
1353 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
1354 *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.
1355 Balderson?
1356 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
1357 *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.
1358 Pfluger?
1359 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
1360 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes aye.
1361 *The Clerk. Duncan?
1362 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.
1363 *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.
1364 DeGette?
1365 *Ms. DeGette. No.
1366 *The Clerk. DeGette votes no.
1367 Peters?
1368 *Mr. Peters. No.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1369 *The Clerk. Peters votes no.
1370 Fletcher?
1371 (No response.)
1372 *The Clerk. Matsui?
1373 *Ms. Matsui. No.
1374 *The Clerk. Matsui votes no.
1375 Tonko?
1376 *Mr. Tonko. No.
1377 *The Clerk. Tonko votes no.
1378 Veasey?
1379 (No response.)
1380 *The Clerk. Kuster?
1381 *Ms. Kuster. No.
1382 *The Clerk. Kuster votes no.
1383 Schreier?
1384 *Ms. Schrier. No.
1385 *The Clerk. Schreier votes no.
1386 Castor?
1387 *Ms. Castor. No.
1388 *The Clerk. Castor votes no.
1389 Sarbanes?

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1390 *Mr. Sarbanes. No.

1391 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes no.

1392 Cardenas?

1393 *Mr. Cardenas. No.

1394 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes no.

1395 Blunt Rochester?

1396 (No response.)

1397 *The Clerk. Pallone?

1398 *Mr. Pallone. No.

1399 *The Clerk. Pallone votes no.

1400 Rodgers?

1401 *The Chair. Aye.

1402 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.

1403 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Latta recorded?

1404 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.

1405 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

1406 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

1407 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Curtis recorded?

1408 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis is not recorded.

1409 *Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes aye.

1410 *The Clerk. Curtis votes aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1411 *Mr. Duncan. Any other member unrecorded?

1412 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

1413 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote there were 15
1414 ayes and 10 noes.

1415 *Mr. Duncan. The ayes have it and the discussion draft
1416 is agreed to and will be moved to the full Committee.

1417 The Chair now calls up the discussion draft to prohibit
1418 the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy
1419 conservation standards for room air conditioners that are not
1420 cost effective or technologically feasible and ask clerk to
1421 report.

1422 *The Clerk. Committee print. A bill to prohibit the
1423 Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy
1424 conservation _

1425 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, the first reading is
1426 dispensed with. The discussion drafts draft will be open for
1427 amendment at any point.

1428 So ordered.

1429 Any member seeking recognition on the discussion draft?

1430 Seeing no discussion, are there any amendments to be
1431 offered?

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1432 Seeing no amendments to be offered.

1433 I will recognize myself, move to strike last word to
1434 speak in favor of the bill.

1435 So recognized.

1436

1437

1438

1439 [The bill follows:]

1440

1441 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1442

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1443 *Mr. Duncan. This bill is straightforward. It
1444 clarifies the intent of the Energy Policy Conservation Act,
1445 which requires Department of Energy to find new standards,
1446 which will result in significant conservation of energy and
1447 technologically feasible and economically justified before
1448 moving forward.

1449 As we have heard, unfortunately, the Biden
1450 Administration has repeatedly ignored these requirements. I
1451 urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Committee
1452 print to end the Biden Administration's war on our home
1453 appliances, and I yield back.

1454 Any other members seeking recognition?

1455 Seeing none, we will now move to a vote.

1456 All those in favor of passing the discussion draft, will
1457 say, aye.

1458 Any opposed?

1459 A roll call vote has been requested, so the clerk will
1460 call the roll.

1461 *The Clerk. Burgess?

1462 (No response.)

1463 *The Clerk. Latta?

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1464 (No response.)
1465 *The Clerk. Guthrie?
1466 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
1467 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.
1468 Griffith?
1469 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
1470 *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.
1471 Bucshon?
1472 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.
1473 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.
1474 Wahlberg?
1475 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.
1476 *The Clerk. Wahlberg votes aye.
1477 Palmer?
1478 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
1479 *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.
1480 Curtis?
1481 *Mr. Curtis. Aye.
1482 *The Clerk. Curtis votes aye.
1483 Ms. Lesko?
1484 *Ms. Lesko. Aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1485 *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.
1486 Pence?
1487 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
1488 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.
1489 Armstrong?
1490 (No response.)
1491 *The Clerk. Weber?
1492 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
1493 *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.
1494 Balderson?
1495 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
1496 *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.
1497 Pfluger?
1498 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
1499 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes aye.
1500 Duncan?
1501 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.
1502 *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.
1503 DeGette?
1504 *Ms. DeGette. No.
1505 *The Clerk. DeGette votes no.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1506 Peters?
1507 *Mr. Peters. No.
1508 *The Clerk. Peters votes no.
1509 Fletcher?
1510 (No response.)
1511 *The Clerk. Matsui?
1512 *Ms. Matsui. No.
1513 *The Clerk. Matsui votes no.
1514 Tonko?
1515 *Mr. Tonko. No.
1516 *The Clerk. Tonko votes no.
1517 Veasey?
1518 (No response.)
1519 *The Clerk. Kuster?
1520 *Ms. Kuster. No.
1521 *The Clerk. Kuster votes no.
1522 Schreier?
1523 *Ms. Schrier. No.
1524 *The Clerk. Schreier votes no.
1525 Castor?
1526 *Ms. Castor. No.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1527 *The Clerk. Castor votes no.
1528 Sarbanes?
1529 *Mr. Sarbanes. No.
1530 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes no.
1531 Cardenas?
1532 *Mr. Cardenas. No.
1533 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes no.
1534 Blunt Rochester?
1535 (No response.)
1536 *The Clerk. Pallone?
1537 *Mr. Pallone. No.
1538 *The Clerk. Pallone votes no.
1539 Rodgers?
1540 *The Chair. Aye.
1541 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.
1542 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Latta recorded?
1543 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.
1544 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
1545 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.
1546 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Burgess recorded?
1547 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess is not recorded.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1548 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

1549 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

1550 (No mic.)

1551 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote there were 15
1552 ayes and 10 noes.

1553 (No mic.)

1554 *The Clerk. Committee print. A bill to amend Title 49
1555 United States Code to improve the safety of pipeline
1556 transportation and for other purposes be enacted by the
1557 Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of
1558 America.

1559 *Mr. Duncan. (No mic.) So ordered.

1560 Does anyone seek recognition on the discussion draft?

1561 I recognize myself for five minutes and move to strike
1562 the last word.

1563 [The bill follows:]

1564

1565 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1566

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1567 *Mr. Duncan. Recognize myself to speak in favor of the
1568 Committee print.

1569 The Pipeline Safety Modernization Expansion Act of 2024.
1570 My legislation will strengthen and reauthorize PHMSA's
1571 pipeline safety program, and I will put policies in place to
1572 drive technological innovation and the much-needed expansion
1573 of our pipeline system.

1574 This bill will help increase the affordability and
1575 reliability of energy and will modernize more than three
1576 million miles of pipelines in this country. Chair Rodgers
1577 and I released this legislation as a draft bill last summer.

1578 We requested input from the American people on a wide
1579 range of stakeholders, from publicly owned utilities to small
1580 businesses and everyone in between.

1581 We met with our Democratic colleagues and held several
1582 hearings, including background hearings with private sector
1583 witnesses, legislative hearings with government officials.

1584 Today's Subcommittee markup is the next step in this
1585 open and transparent process. Today, we are going to debate
1586 the bill and vote on amendments to improve and perfect
1587 legislation.

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1588 My hope is that we can build bipartisanship through this
1589 process. The Pipeline Safety Modernization Expansion Act
1590 will reauthorize PHMSA for five years. It will increase
1591 funding for states and rebalance PHMSA's budget priority so
1592 that we can put more resources where they need to be, and
1593 that is at the state and local level.

1594 The Committee print that the Subcommittee is considering
1595 today has been updated to include numerous bipartisan
1596 provisions that the House T&I Committee reported in December.

1597 Based on feedback we received our legislative hearing; I
1598 believe these provisions will further improve the bill.

1599 The Pipeline Safety Modernization Expansion Act will
1600 improve safety and promote innovation in new technologies.
1601 The bill will position PHMSA as a regulator and encourages
1602 pipeline operators to innovate with new technologies and to
1603 improve safety and efficiency.

1604 There are so many new technologies being developed.
1605 This bill will put technology to work to prevent excavation
1606 damage to pipelines, detect leaks, replace aging pipe, and
1607 prepare for a future with hydrogen and CO2 pipelines as well.

1608 As the nation's grid operators testified in our

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1609 Subcommittee hearing, we are facing a grid reliability crisis
1610 in many parts of the country, in part due to a lack of
1611 pipelines that can deliver affordable, reliable natural gas.

1612 Energy producers and grid operators have testified
1613 before the Subcommittee about negative impacts and effects of
1614 state policies and gas bans that block the flow of energy
1615 from where it is produced to where it is consumed and even
1616 exported.

1617 The Pipeline Safety Modernization Expansion Act includes
1618 a safety valve to prevent states from blocking pipelines for
1619 political reasons. The legislation also protects consumer
1620 choice by preventing a state and local government from
1621 blocking the transportation of natural gas, gasoline, or
1622 other fuels.

1623 I look forward to debating the amendments today in favor
1624 of favorably reporting this bill to the full Committee. It
1625 is time to roll up our sleeves, get to work on this important
1626 legislation, and I yield back.

1627 Any other members seeking recognition on the bill?

1628 Mr. Pallone is recognized for five minutes.

1629 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1630 strike the last word.

1631 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

1632 *Mr. Pallone. I want to explain why Committee Democrats
1633 stand opposed to the bill in its current form. First, it
1634 slashes PHMSA's pipeline safety authorization levels. It
1635 confuses building pipelines with pipeline safety, and it
1636 rolls back vital provisions from the 2020 PIPES Act that we
1637 fought hard to include, such as requiring PHMSA to consider
1638 environmental benefits.

1639 While some of the provisions Republicans have added to
1640 their draft bill since our hearing are similar to provisions
1641 included in the bipartisan Transportation and Infrastructure
1642 Committee bill, they are not sufficient to cure a dangerous
1643 bill.

1644 Unfortunately, and also let me say that none of the
1645 changes made to the bill address our core concerns, which
1646 have not changed in the nearly eight months since we found
1647 out about the Republican's draft bill in a press release.

1648 But before I talk about the non-pipeline safety aspects
1649 of the bill, I want to focus on one of the fatal flaws of the
1650 bill, the way it defunds PHMSA's pipeline safety authorities.

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1651 At our hearing, Republicans claimed that they kept
1652 funding flat in their bill, but that cannot be further from
1653 the truth, and the numbers do not lie.

1654 This bill authorizes a \$196 million for pipeline safety
1655 activities in Fiscal Year 2024, 41 million less than the
1656 PIPES Act of 2022 provided for the Fiscal Year 2023. That is
1657 not flat funding. That is a 18 percent cut.

1658 Additionally, this bill authorizes PHMSA's pipeline
1659 safety activities at a level \$22 million less than what we
1660 will all vote to appropriate, I guess, today, in the minibus.
1661 Think about how crazy that is.

1662 Republicans and Democrats are set to agree on a
1663 bipartisan path forward to allocate \$218 million for pipeline
1664 safety activities this year.

1665 Meanwhile, Committee Republicans are forcing a vote on
1666 defunding vital activities at PHMSA that keep Americans safe.
1667 So it is just unbelievable. So a vote for this bill is a
1668 vote to make pipelines more dangerous. There is no question
1669 about it.

1670 We heard in January from PHMSA's acting administrator
1671 who testified that budget cuts would have a severe impact on

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1672 PHMSA's ability to do its job. So it is ridiculous that the
1673 majority insists on demanding that PHMSA's to do more with
1674 less.

1675 And that is before we get to the poison pill provisions
1676 of the bill. Democrats have never wavered in our position,
1677 since this draft bill was released, that we are not willing
1678 to negotiate on items that do not belong in a PHMSA
1679 reauthorization package.

1680 These items are not negotiable. A pipeline safety bill
1681 is about pipeline safety, not building more pipelines, not
1682 carbon dioxide sequestration, and not banning state and
1683 municipal choice on new gas hookups.

1684 This bill has provisions on all three of these topics,
1685 provisions that implicate FERC and EPA, and Democrats have
1686 made clear these are nonstarters for us since the beginning.

1687 So I just find it deeply unfortunate that Republicans
1688 are too blinded by their partisanship to see that these
1689 provisions will not become law and that they insist on
1690 wasting all of our time fighting for language that will never
1691 see the president's desk.

1692 If Republicans want to move these provisions on their

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1693 own, they are more than welcome to do so. They have the
1694 majority. It is their prerogative. If they choose to move
1695 these non-safety items as stand-alone bills, I will oppose
1696 them because I think the policy is bad, but at least they
1697 would clear the way for us to negotiate on pipeline safety.

1698 Unfortunately, the majority's actions speak louder than
1699 its words. They have no interest in working together in a
1700 bipartisan fashion on this, which is particularly wrong
1701 because the Transportation Committee has done a bipartisan
1702 bill and worked together.

1703 And democrats have a number of proposals on pipeline
1704 safety. We have filed a number of amendments that we believe
1705 are worthwhile and would represent substantial improvements
1706 to the bill, and we intend to use this markup as a platform
1707 to talk about the building blocks of what we should be
1708 focusing on in pipeline safety legislation.

1709 We would be happy for Republicans to show any interest
1710 in bipartisanship on this Committee by supporting some of our
1711 amendments today, a number of which are provisions included
1712 in the Transportation Committee's bill, as well as striking
1713 some of the problematic provisions I mentioned earlier.

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1714 You know, I have to just say, it pains me that I have to
1715 talk about the other Committee as somehow better than us,
1716 because I always think we are the better Committee. But not
1717 on this one.

1718 We really are terrible, and the other Committee is doing
1719 a lot better. And I hate to say it as the Ranking Member,
1720 but that's a fact.

1721 I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

1722 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

1723 Any members seeking recognition?

1724 Okay. I am seeing none.

1725 Are there any bipartisan amendments?

1726 *Mr. Weber. Mr. chairman.

1727 *Mr. Duncan. Any other amendments?

1728 *Mr. Weber. I have an amendment at the desk.

1729 *Mr. Duncan. Mr. Weber has an amendment at the desk.

1730 The clerk will report.

1731 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber, can you specify your amendment?

1732 *Mr. Weber. It is Amendment to the Committee Print for
1733 Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2023. I
1734 don't have the number on it.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1735 *The Clerk. Thank you.

1736 *Mr. Weber. TI 2301. He is right. Yes.

1737 *The Clerk. An amendment to the Committee print,
1738 Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2023
1739 offered by Mr. Weber of Texas, insert at the appropriate
1740 place the following and make such conforming changes as may
1741 be necessary.

1742 *Mr. Duncan. Could you speak up in the microphone a
1743 little bit more, Noah?

1744 *The Clerk. Amendment to the Committee print for
1745 Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2023
1746 offered by Mr. Weber of Texas. Insert at the appropriate
1747 place the following and make such amendment changes _

1748 *Mr. Duncan. Is that the right one?

1749 *Mr. Weber. Yeah.

1750 *Mr. Duncan. Further reading is dispensed with. Could
1751 you tell us the number of that amendment one more time?

1752 *The Clerk. T-123 _

1753 *Mr. Weber. TI.

1754 *The Clerk. TI, excuse me, 23_01.

1755 *Mr. Duncan. Okay. We got it.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1756 So Mr. Weber is recognized to explain his amendment.

1757 [The amendment of Mr. Weber as follows:]

1758

1759 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1760

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1761 *Mr. Weber. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1762 I appreciate the Committee considering the inclusion of
1763 my bill, the LNG Coordination Act of 2024, as an amendment to
1764 the Pipeline Safety Modernization Expansion Act of 2024.

1765 The language that I am offering, pardon me, is already
1766 included, speaking of the Transportation Infrastructure PIPES
1767 Act, and I am thankful for Representative Fletcher's support
1768 in working to add this to the bill for us today.

1769 Our amendment would establish an LNG Regulatory Safety
1770 Working Group to clarify the authority of federal agencies,
1771 including PHMSA, FERC, and the US Coast Guard in the
1772 authorizing and oversight of LNG facilities.

1773 Pardon me. The working group's primary function is to
1774 resolve conflicts concerning overlapping jurisdictions
1775 between the agencies and avoid duplicate duplicative, pardon
1776 me, avoid duplicative regulations, inspection protocols, and
1777 reporting obligations.

1778 From this working group, they will enter into MOU,
1779 Memorandum of Understanding, regarding best practices and
1780 then report them to Congress.

1781 This amendment is critical to our energy security by

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1782 cutting red tape at these LNG facilities without compromising
1783 safety.

1784 Let me say that again, without compromising safety. We
1785 all know that the important role that the United States LNG
1786 plays for our allies across the world, especially, especially
1787 during this time of global instability.

1788 This language is supported by the Center For LNG, whose
1789 member companies include Golden Pass LNG, Freeport LNG, and
1790 Sempra, all of which have facilities in my Texas Gulf Coast
1791 district, and Cheniere, which has its Sabine Pass facility
1792 right across the state line in Louisiana.

1793 LNG is a clean source of energy. Let me emphasize that.
1794 LNG is a clean source of energy. LNG brings good American
1795 paying jobs. It brings direct benefits, not only to our
1796 communities, but to our allies around the world.

1797 Not the least of which the direct benefit it brings to
1798 our allies is safety. So this is a common-sense amendment
1799 that continues the work of this Committee to eliminate
1800 unnecessary red tape and redundancy, and I hope our
1801 colleagues will support this, and I urge support of my
1802 amendment.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1803 And, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

1804 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

1805 I now recognize the Ranking Member of the full Committee
1806 for his time to speak on the amendment.

1807 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1808 I move to strike the last word. I support this
1809 amendment. As it has been already said by the sponsor, it
1810 includes language that was included in the bipartisan bill
1811 that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee put
1812 together.

1813 It is even labeled as T&I amendment, which I think is
1814 rather embarrassing. It underscores how T&I did the work,
1815 bipartisan work, and we didn't. But this amendment would
1816 create a working group to examine overlapping jurisdiction
1817 and safety regulations for LNG facilities.

1818 Critically, it builds upon the LNG Safety Center of
1819 Excellence we established in the 2020 reauthorization, and it
1820 does not compromise on LNG safety.

1821 I also want to note to our Republicans why I am
1822 supporting this because I think provisions that were in the
1823 bipartisan transportation bill should be given a fair chance

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1824 in our Committee.

1825 And I can only hope that the majority will extend
1826 provisions from that bill, that the Democrats intend to bring
1827 forward today, you know, this is what we are going to be
1828 doing to try to get this more like the bipartisan bill that
1829 passed in the other Committee.

1830 Very sad. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

1831 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

1832 Is there a further discussion on the amendment?

1833 Seeing none, the vote now occurs on the amendment.

1834 All those in favor, say aye.

1835 Any opposed, nay?

1836 In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and the
1837 amendment is agreed to.

1838 Gentleman requests a recorded vote, so the clerk will
1839 report.

1840 *The Clerk. Burgess?

1841 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

1842 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

1843 Latta?

1844 (No response.)

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1845 *The Clerk. Guthrie?
1846 (No response.)
1847 *The Clerk. Griffith?
1848 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
1849 *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.
1850 Bucshon?
1851 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.
1852 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.
1853 Wahlberg?
1854 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.
1855 *The Clerk. Wahlberg votes aye.
1856 Palmer?
1857 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
1858 *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.
1859 Curtis?
1860 *Mr. Curtis. Aye.
1861 *The Clerk. Curtis votes aye.
1862 Lesko?
1863 (No response.)
1864 *The Clerk. Pence?
1865 (No response.)

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1866 *The Clerk. Armstrong?
1867 *Mr. Armstrong. Aye.
1868 *The Clerk. Armstrong votes aye.
1869 Weber?
1870 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
1871 *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.
1872 Balderson?
1873 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
1874 *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.
1875 Pfluger?
1876 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
1877 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes aye.
1878 Duncan?
1879 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.
1880 *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.
1881 DeGette?
1882 *Ms. DeGette. Aye
1883 *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.
1884 Peters?
1885 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
1886 *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1887 Fletcher?
1888 (No response.)
1889 *The Clerk. Matsui?
1890 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
1891 *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.
1892 Tonko?
1893 (No response.)
1894 *The Clerk. Veasey?
1895 (No response.)
1896 *The Clerk. Kuster?
1897 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
1898 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
1899 Schreier?
1900 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
1901 *The Clerk. Schreier votes aye.
1902 Castor?
1903 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
1904 *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.
1905 Sarbanes?
1906 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
1907 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes Aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1908 Cardenas?
1909 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
1910 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.
1911 Blunt Rochester?
1912 (No response.)
1913 *The Clerk. Pallone?
1914 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
1915 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.
1916 Rodgers?
1917 *The Chair. Aye.
1918 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.
1919 *Mr. Duncan. Any members unrecorded?
1920 How is Mr. Latta recorded?
1921 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.
1922 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
1923 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.
1924 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Guthrie recorded?
1925 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
1926 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.
1927 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Pence recorded?
1928 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence is not recorded.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1929 *Mr. Pence. Aye.

1930 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

1931 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Tonko recorded?

1932 *The Clerk. Tonko is not recorded.

1933 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

1934 *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.

1935 *Mr. Duncan. How is Ms. Lesko recorded?

1936 *The Clerk. Lesko is not recorded.

1937 *Ms. Lesko. Aye.

1938 *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.

1939 *Mr. Duncan. Any members unrecorded?

1940 The clerk will report the total.

1941 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote there were 26

1942 ayes and zero noes.

1943 *Mr. Duncan. The ayes have it. The amendment is agreed

1944 to.

1945 Are there any other any other amendments?

1946 Ms. DeGette is recognized.

1947 *Ms. DeGette. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the

1948 desk labeled AMD 01.

1949 *Mr. Duncan. The clerk will report the amendment.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1950 *The Clerk. Amendment to the Committee print for the
1951 Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2024
1952 offered by Ms. DeGette.

1953 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, further reading of the
1954 amendment is dispensed with.

1955 The gentlelady is recognized to explain her own
1956 amendment.

1957 [The amendment of Ms. DeGette follows:]

1958

1959 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1960

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1961 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1962 My amendment would rectify a core weakness of this bill,
1963 which is the authorization levels. It would replace the
1964 authorization levels contained within the bill with ones that
1965 are identical to what emerged from T&I back in December.

1966 I want to be clear. Every single Republican on the T&I
1967 Committee supported these authorization levels. That
1968 includes Freedom Caucus members, more moderate members, and
1969 everybody in between.

1970 It was a compromise that they all got behind, and it is
1971 a good compromise. These authorization levels would
1972 challenge appropriators to fund pipeline safety activities at
1973 a level that would actually allow PHMSA to do its job.

1974 We heard repeatedly from Deputy Administrator Brown back
1975 in January that PHMSA desperately needs more resources even
1976 to do the job that we have demanded in previous
1977 reauthorizations.

1978 So accepting this amendment would allow our Committee to
1979 do its part. But the other reason that this amendment is so
1980 important is the authorization levels included in this bill
1981 are simply unacceptable to Committee Democrats.

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1982 As I mentioned in my opening statement, it would cut \$42
1983 million relative to the authorization included in the 2020
1984 PIPES Act. It would establish authorization levels a
1985 whopping \$80 million lower than my amendment and the T&I bill
1986 would establish.

1987 Additionally, the bill's authorization for Fiscal Year
1988 '24 is lower than the appropriations contained in the bill
1989 that we are voting on this week.

1990 So if you are going to vote to keep the government open
1991 this week, then you have to vote for this amendment because
1992 you clearly want PHMSA to have more resources than this bill
1993 would provide.

1994 And if you are not planning to keep the government open,
1995 well, never mind. It is really quite simple. A vote for my
1996 amendment is a vote to show that you are serious about
1997 reaching a bipartisan compromise on pipeline safety in good
1998 faith, a compromise that our colleagues on both of the sides
1999 of the aisle in T&I have already been able to reach.

2000 And so I just think that it makes sense. It is time to
2001 prove that we are serious about pipeline safety, and I would
2002 urge supporting this amendment I yield back.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2003 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady yields back. Any other
2004 member seeking recognition?

2005 Mr. Guthrie is recognized.

2006 Mr. chair? Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to
2007 move to strike the last word, speak in opposition to the
2008 amendment.

2009 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

2010 *Mr. Guthrie. Thank you. The Pipeline Safety
2011 Modernization Expansion Act contains authorization levels
2012 that reflect prior year appropriations with a larger share,
2013 approximately 50 percent going to the states.

2014 PHMSA has access billions of dollars in increased
2015 funding from the recently passed, infrastructure legislation.
2016 The infrastructure legislation authorizes 1.2 trillion for
2017 transportation and infrastructure spending with 550 billion
2018 of that going towards new investments and programs.

2019 I know the gentlelady talked about perhaps having a
2020 ability to have a compromise or a bipartisan compromise. And
2021 if you are willing to withdraw this, I think that we would be
2022 willing to work with you going towards full Committee.

2023 These are the kinds of discussions we need to have and

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2024 we look forward to having, as we both share the goal of
2025 working towards a bipartisan bill.

2026 And if not withdrawing, then I would urge a no vote, and
2027 I will yield back.

2028 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

2029 Is there further discussion on the amendment?

2030 Seeing none.

2031 All those in favor of adopting the amendment, say aye.

2032 Those opposed, no.

2033 In the opinion of the Chair, the noes have it.

2034 A recorded vote has been requested. The clerk will call
2035 the roll.

2036 *The Clerk. Burgess?

2037 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes no.

2038 *The Clerk. Burgess votes no.

2039 Latta?

2040 (No response.)

2041 *The Clerk. Guthrie?

2042 *Mr. Guthrie. No.

2043 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes no.

2044 Griffith?

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2045 *Mr. Griffith. No.
2046 *The Clerk. Griffith votes no.
2047 Bucshon?
2048 *Mr. Bucshon. No.
2049 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.
2050 Wahlberg?
2051 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.
2052 *The Clerk. Wahlberg votes no.
2053 Palmer?
2054 *Mr. Palmer. No.
2055 *The Clerk. Palmer votes No.
2056 Curtis?
2057 *Mr. Curtis. No.
2058 *The Clerk. Curtis votes no.
2059 Lesko?
2060 (No response.)
2061 *The Clerk. Pence?
2062 *Mr. Pence. No.
2063 *The Clerk. Pence votes no.
2064 Armstrong?
2065 (No response.)

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2066 *The Clerk. Weber?
2067 *Mr. Weber. No.
2068 *The Clerk. Weber votes no.
2069 Balderson?
2070 *Mr. Balderson. No.
2071 *The Clerk. Balderson votes no.
2072 Pfluger?
2073 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
2074 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes no.
2075 Duncan?
2076 *Mr. Duncan. No.
2077 *The Clerk. Duncan votes no.
2078 DeGette?
2079 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
2080 *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.
2081 Peters?
2082 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
2083 *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.
2084 Fletcher?
2085 (No response.)
2086 *The Clerk. Matsui?

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2087 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

2088 *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.

2089 Tonko?

2090 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

2091 *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.

2092 Veasey?

2093 (No response.)

2094 *The Clerk. Kuster?

2095 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.

2096 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

2097 Schreier?

2098 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

2099 *The Clerk. Schreier votes aye.

2100 Castor?

2101 (No response.)

2102 *The Clerk. Sarbanes?

2103 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.

2104 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.

2105 Cardenas?

2106 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

2107 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2108 Blunt Rochester?
2109 (No response.)
2110 *The Clerk. Pallone?
2111 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
2112 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.
2113 Chair Rodgers?
2114 *Mr. Duncan. Are there any members unrecorded?
2115 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes no.
2116 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Latta recorded?
2117 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.
2118 *Mr. Latta. No.
2119 *The Clerk. Latta votes no.
2120 *Mr. Duncan. And how is Ms. Castor recorded?
2121 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor is not recorded.
2122 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
2123 *The Clerk. Caster votes aye.
2124 *Mr. Duncan. Any other member unrecorded?
2125 Ms. Lesko? How is Ms. Lesko?
2126 *The Clerk. Ms. Lesko is not recorded.
2127 *Ms. Lesko. No.
2128 *The Clerk. Lesko votes no.

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2129 *Mr. Duncan. The clerk will report the total.

2130 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote there were 10

2131 ayes and 15 noes.

2132 *Mr. Duncan. The amendment is not adopted or agreed to.

2133 Are there any other members seeking to offer an

2134 amendment?

2135 Mr. Pence, you are recognized.

2136 *Mr. Pence. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

2137 *The Clerk. Amendment to the Committee print for the

2138 Pipeline Safety Modernization and Expansion Act of 2024,

2139 offered by Mr. Pence of Indiana.

2140 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, further reading of the

2141 amendment is dispensed with and the gentleman is recognized

2142 to explain his amendment.

2143 [The amendment of Mr. Pence as follows:]

2144

2145 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2146

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2147 *Mr. Pence. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2148 My amendment will direct a study on the technical
2149 considerations for safely transporting blended hydrogen and
2150 natural gas through pipelines.

2151 Importantly, this amendment could help leverage existing
2152 natural gas pipeline assets for hydrogen distribution to
2153 foster a competitive domestic hydrogen industry.

2154 Hydrogen is becoming a key fuel for next generation
2155 clean energy applications many of which are taking place in
2156 my Hoosier state. Cummins Engine Company, headquartered in
2157 my hometown of Columbus, Indiana, is a world class leader in
2158 hydrogen fueled heavy duty engine development.

2159 Wabash Valley Resources will utilize hydrogen for their
2160 ammonia production plant, which will be one of the nation's
2161 largest facilities and was recently awarded class six well
2162 permits from the EPA to permanently sequester captured
2163 carbon.

2164 In northwest Indiana, DOE's Midwest Hydrogen Hub Program
2165 will leverage BP Whiting's Refinery for hydrogen production.
2166 This hydrogen hub will help commercialize new technologies in
2167 industrial processing, steel manufacturing, glass production,

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2168 and power generation using hydrogen.

2169 These applications will require a large and continuous
2170 amounts of hydrogen and the most efficient and cost-effective
2171 method of transportation could be by pipeline.

2172 As my colleagues are aware, the relationship between
2173 hydrogen and natural gas could allow our nation to take
2174 advantage of a vast network of existing pipelines for
2175 hydrogen distribution.

2176 However, knowledge gaps remain before widespread
2177 commercialization of hydrogen blend distribution can take
2178 place.

2179 This amendment will seek to help improve our
2180 understanding of the relationship between these two gases.
2181 Specifically, it will aid in addressing how blending may
2182 react to various pipeline materials, impact leak detection
2183 and prevention, and maintain integrity and operational
2184 capability.

2185 By improving our understanding of hydrogen molecules and
2186 natural gas pipelines, our nation could leverage the
2187 expertise of the oil and gas industry to more effectively
2188 build out hydrogen infrastructure.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2189 While many of the innovations in hydrogen hold promise,
2190 distribution will be a lynchpin to their success. As my
2191 colleagues know, stakeholders across our districts are
2192 continuing to develop a novel approach for hydrogen
2193 distribution, studying various levels of hydrogen and natural
2194 gas blends, and even exploring new forms of natural hydrogen
2195 production.

2196 This amendment could help inform these efforts and help
2197 establish safe, effective, and efficient distribution
2198 opportunities needed to grow a domestic hydrogen industry.

2199 I urge my colleagues to support the amendment and I
2200 yield back.

2201 *Mr. Duncan. Is there further discussion on the
2202 amendment?

2203 Ms. Schrier is recognized.

2204 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Formally, I'd
2205 like to strike the last word and speak on the amendment.

2206 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady is recognized for five
2207 minutes.

2208 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you.

2209 Hydrogen has been highly incentivized in my home state

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2210 of Washington. I was proud to lead congressional support for
2211 the hydrogen hub in the Pacific Northwest that will lead to
2212 roughly \$1 billion in funding to jump start a green hydrogen
2213 industry.

2214 But as explored in our legislative hearing with Bill
2215 Karam, executive director of Washington's Pipeline Safety
2216 Trust, we still have serious knowledge gaps to fill on just
2217 how to integrate hydrogen safely and effectively in our
2218 energy systems.

2219 In addition to building out new safe and reliable
2220 transport storage and delivery, we also need to understand,
2221 the challenges, financial, safety, and environmental
2222 challenges of integrating hydrogen into existing
2223 infrastructure with methane gas known as hydrogen blending.

2224 Gas companies have featured this as a key part of their
2225 industry's plan to decrease greenhouse gas emissions. And
2226 before the industry makes this practice mainstream, we must
2227 understand what safety precautions to take and what
2228 modifications need to be made on existing pipelines.

2229 That is why I am so supportive of Representative Pence's
2230 amendment to study the effects of transporting blends of

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2231 hydrogen and methane gas in existing gas pipeline
2232 infrastructure, mirroring the same study included in the
2233 bipartisan transportation and infrastructure reauthorization
2234 bill.

2235 I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and I
2236 yield back.

2237 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady yields back.

2238 Any further discussion on the amendment?

2239 Seeing none, the vote now occurs on the amendment.

2240 All those in favor, say aye.

2241 Opposed, nay.

2242 A roll call vote has been requested, so the clerk will
2243 call the roll.

2244 *The Clerk. Burgess?

2245 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

2246 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

2247 Latta?

2248 (No response.)

2249 *The Clerk. Guthrie?

2250 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

2251 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2252 Griffith?
2253 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
2254 *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.
2255 Bucshon?
2256 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.
2257 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.
2258 Wahlberg?
2259 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.
2260 *The Clerk. Wahlberg votes aye.
2261 Palmer?
2262 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
2263 *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.
2264 Curtis?
2265 *Mr. Curtis. Aye.
2266 *The Clerk. Curtis votes aye.
2267 Lesko?
2268 *Ms. Lesko. Aye.
2269 *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.
2270 Pence?
2271 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
2272 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2273 Armstrong?
2274 (No response.)
2275 *The Clerk. Weber?
2276 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
2277 *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.
2278 Balderson?
2279 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
2280 *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.
2281 Pfluger?
2282 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
2283 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes aye.
2284 Duncan?
2285 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.
2286 *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.
2287 DeGette?
2288 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
2289 *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.
2290 Peters?
2291 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
2292 *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.
2293 Fletcher?

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2294 (No response.)
2295 *The Clerk. Matsui?
2296 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
2297 *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.
2298 Tonko?
2299 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
2300 *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.
2301 Veasey?
2302 (No response.)
2303 *The Clerk. Kuster?
2304 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
2305 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
2306 Schreier?
2307 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
2308 *The Clerk. Schreier votes aye.
2309 Castor?
2310 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
2311 *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.
2312 Sarbanes?
2313 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
2314 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2315 Cardenas?

2316 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

2317 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

2318 Blunt Rochester?

2319 (No response.)

2320 *The Clerk. Pallone?

2321 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

2322 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

2323 Rodgers?

2324 *The Chair. Aye.

2325 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.

2326 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Latta recorded?

2327 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.

2328 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

2329 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

2330 *Mr. Duncan. Any other members unrecorded?

2331 Seeing none, the clerk will report the tally.

2332 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote there were 25

2333 ayes and zero noes.

2334 *Mr. Duncan. The ayes have it. The amendment is agreed

2335 to.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2336 Are there further amendments on the bill?

2337 Mr. Peters?

2338 *Mr. Peters. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
2339 desk labeled AMD 06.

2340 *Mr. Duncan. The clerk will report the amendment.

2341 *The Clerk. Amendment to the Committee print for the
2342 Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2024 _

2343 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, further reading of the
2344 amendment is dispensed with and the gentleman is recognized
2345 to explain his amendment.

2346

2347 [The amendment of Mr. Peters follows:]

2348

2349 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2350

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2351 *Mr. Peters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2352 I am disappointed by the willingness of the majority to
2353 put forth a bill that could hamstring PHMSA's ability to
2354 consider the environmental benefits of proposed rulemaking.

2355 It is particularly surprising because three years ago,
2356 Republicans signed off on language that allowed PHMSA to
2357 consider environmental benefits, a proposed rulemaking in a
2358 bill that cleared a Republican Senate and was signed into law
2359 by former President Trump.

2360 I believe it is extremely counterproductive and
2361 dangerous to tie the hands of the agencies that oversee the
2362 responsible operation of our critical infrastructure. We
2363 secured significant victories in the bipartisan PIPES Act of
2364 2020 by creating a leaked detention program ensuring that
2365 PHMSA can consider all relevant factors when issuing rules.

2366 So I am proud to offer this amendment that would correct
2367 the majority's bill to ensure PHMSA can consider
2368 environmental factors along with cost and safety concerns.

2369 Mitigating pipeline leaks has significant environmental
2370 safety and economic benefits, but in order to get the best
2371 outcome and the best rule possible, PHMSA needs to be able to

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2372 consider all three of those benefits.

2373 Instructing it to exclusively consider economic and
2374 safety benefits only and purposely to ignore environmental
2375 benefits doesn't make any sense. Eliminating fugitive
2376 methane emissions from pipeline infrastructure is one of the
2377 best things we can do for public health, safety, and the
2378 environment.

2379 This should be common sense and bipartisan, so I will
2380 reiterate my earlier point. Three years ago, this was
2381 bipartisan. Energy and Commerce Republicans signed off on
2382 the language that is now law.

2383 I am not sure what changed in a short time, but we have
2384 a chance to correct it, do the right thing, and I hope that
2385 my colleagues will support this amendment to do just that.

2386 As written, I think the bill takes us in the wrong
2387 direction on methane, so I will oppose it. And I urge
2388 adoption of my amendment and I yield back.

2389 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

2390 Any other member seeking recognition?

2391 *Mr. Palmer. Mr. chairman?

2392 *Mr. Duncan. Mr. Palmer is recognized.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2393 *Mr. Palmer. Move to strike the last word.

2394 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized for five
2395 minutes.

2396 *Mr. Palmer. This amendment would strike the
2397 requirement that PHMSA consider the safety and economic
2398 benefits of a regulation within United States.

2399 Considering the fact that in the first three years of
2400 the Biden Administration, the Biden Administration has
2401 imposed over \$600 billion in new regulatory cost on American
2402 consumers, striking that provision makes absolutely no sense.

2403 It is just another example of how my Democratic
2404 colleagues are just completely oblivious and insensitive to
2405 the plight of American families struggling to make ends meet,
2406 to afford their groceries, and afford their household
2407 utilities.

2408 This amendment gets rid of the language in our bill,
2409 which prohibits the use of the social cost of carbon and
2410 alleged international climate benefits of a regulation, which
2411 again is indicative of this mad pursuit of their Green New
2412 Deal, which again, is just devastating the, household
2413 finances of American families.

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2414 This is another effort by the Democrats to make PHMSA a
2415 climate regulator instead of a safety regulator. I urge my
2416 colleagues to oppose this amendment and I yield back.

2417 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

2418 Is there further discussion?

2419 Okay. A roll call vote has been, requested so the clerk
2420 will call the roll.

2421 *The Clerk. Burgess?

2422 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

2423 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

2424 Latta?

2425 *Mr. Latta. No.

2426 *The Clerk. Latta votes no.

2427 Guthrie?

2428 *Mr. Guthrie. No.

2429 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes no.

2430 Griffith?

2431 *Mr. Griffith. No.

2432 *The Clerk. Griffith votes no.

2433 Bucshon?

2434 *Mr. Bucshon. No.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2435 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes no.

2436 Wahlberg?

2437 *Mr. Walberg. No.

2438 *The Clerk. Wahlberg votes no.

2439 Palmer?

2440 *Mr. Palmer. No.

2441 *The Clerk. Palmer votes no.

2442 Curtis?

2443 *Mr. Curtis. No.

2444 (No response.)

2445 *The Clerk. Lesko?

2446 *Ms. Lesko. No.

2447 *The Clerk. Lesko votes no.

2448 Pence?

2449 (No response.)

2450 *The Clerk. Armstrong?

2451 (No response.)

2452 *The Clerk. Weber?

2453 *Mr. Weber. No.

2454 *The Clerk. Weber votes no.

2455 Balderson?

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2456 *Mr. Balderson. No.
2457 *The Clerk. Balderson votes no.
2458 Pfluger?
2459 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
2460 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes no.
2461 Duncan?
2462 *Mr. Duncan. No.
2463 *The Clerk. Duncan votes no.
2464 DeGette?
2465 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
2466 *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.
2467 Peters?
2468 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
2469 *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.
2470 Fletcher?
2471 (No response.)
2472 *The Clerk. Matsui?
2473 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
2474 *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.
2475 Tonko?
2476 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2477 *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.
2478 Veasey?
2479 (No response.)
2480 *The Clerk. Kuster?
2481 (No response.)
2482 *The Clerk. Schrier?
2483 Ms. Kuster, you are not recorded.
2484 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
2485 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
2486 Schreier?
2487 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
2488 *The Clerk. Schreier votes aye.
2489 Castor?
2490 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
2491 *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.
2492 Sarbanes?
2493 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
2494 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.
2495 Cardenas?
2496 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
2497 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2498 Blunt Rochester?

2499 (No response.)

2500 *The Clerk. Pallone?

2501 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

2502 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

2503 Rodgers?

2504 *The Chair. No.

2505 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes no.

2506 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Pense recorded?

2507 *Mr. Pence. No.

2508 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.

2509 *Mr. Duncan. And how is Mr. Curtis reported?

2510 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis is not recorded.

2511 *Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes no.

2512 *The Clerk. Curtis votes no.

2513 *Mr. Duncan. Any other member unrecorded?

2514 The clerk will report the tally.

2515 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote there were 10
2516 ayes and 15 noes.

2517 *Mr. Duncan. The noes have it, the amendment is not
2518 agreed to.

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2519 Any other member have an amendment to be offered?

2520 Mr. Balderson, you have an amendment?

2521 *Mr. Balderson. I do, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

2522 Sorry, Mr. Pfluger was talking to me.

2523 Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

2524 *Mr. Duncan. The clerk will report.

2525 *The Clerk. Amendment to the Committee print for the
2526 Pipeline, Safety, Modernization and Expansion Act of 2024
2527 offered by _

2528 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, further reading of the
2529 amendment is dispensed with.

2530 Mr. Balderson is recognized to explain his amendment.

2531 [The amendment of Mr. Balderson follows:]

2532

2533 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2534

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2535 *Mr. Balderson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2536 Appreciate you doing this markup today, including the
2537 Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act.

2538 My amendment builds on some of the bill's provisions to
2539 provide clarity and reduce red tape while ensuring strong
2540 oversight and safety of our pipelines.

2541 This amendment simply clarifies that in plant gas
2542 pipelines are regulated by OSHA instead of PHMSA as part of
2543 the larger refining and production facility similar to how in
2544 plant liquid pipelines are regulated.

2545 The inspection of in plant piping, which includes short
2546 segments of pipe that are used to move product within
2547 facility has traditionally been regulated by OSHA's process
2548 safety management or PSM.

2549 In 2010, PHMSA published guidance on this issue knowing
2550 that PHMSA has Pfizer, excuse me, PHMSA has elected not to
2551 apply the federal gas pipeline safety regulations to such
2552 lines if they are associated with the plant, meaning they are
2553 operated by plant personnel, run between plant buildings, and
2554 are less than one mile in length.

2555 Unfortunately, regional offices have been inconsistent

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2556 with how they treat these lines, creating unnecessary
2557 confusion in regulatory orders. OSHA's PSM has thorough
2558 safety regulations in place for implant piping.

2559 It is important to note that these implant piping's
2560 follow different standards than transportation pipelines.

2561 For example, the in-plant piping in a refinery or gas
2562 plant are typically designed to completely different ASME
2563 requirements than that of transportation pipelines. It
2564 simply doesn't make any sense to subject these facilities to
2565 oversight from OSHA and PHMSA.

2566 This common-sense amendment ensures gas and plant pipes
2567 are regulated by OSHA's PSM just like liquid and plant pipes.
2568 OSHA has the existing knowledge and expertise to promote
2569 safety within these facilities.

2570 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

2571 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

2572 Ms. DeGette's recognized on the amendment.

2573 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2574 Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment. It would exempt
2575 gas pipelines supporting certain industrial and extracted
2576 processes from pipeline safety regulations and requirements.

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2577 It would not just exempt those pipelines within the
2578 fence line of a facility, but it would also exempt any
2579 transfer pipes in a one-mile radius around the facility.
2580 What this would do would be to expose workers at refineries
2581 and other facilities to unnecessary safety risks, and it
2582 would endanger the communities around those.

2583 Frankly, this is a handout to an industry looking to cut
2584 corners on safety. I don't think we should stand for this on
2585 behalf of our constituents, and so I urge everyone on both
2586 sides of the aisle to oppose the amendment.

2587 I yield back.

2588 *Mr. Duncan. Is there further discussion on the
2589 amendment?

2590 Seeing none, a roll call vote has been requested, so the
2591 clerk will call the roll.

2592 *The Clerk. Burgess?

2593 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

2594 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

2595 Latta?

2596 (No response.)

2597 *The Clerk. Guthrie?

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2598 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
2599 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.
2600 Griffith?
2601 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
2602 *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.
2603 Bucshon?
2604 (No response.)
2605 *The Clerk. Wahlberg?
2606 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.
2607 *The Clerk. Wahlberg votes aye.
2608 Palmer?
2609 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
2610 *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.
2611 Curtis?
2612 *Mr. Curtis. Aye.
2613 *The Clerk. Curtis votes aye.
2614 Lesko?
2615 *Ms. Lesko. Aye.
2616 *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.
2617 Pence?
2618 (No response.)

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2619 *The Clerk. Armstrong?
2620 (No response.)
2621 *The Clerk. Weber?
2622 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
2623 *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.
2624 Balderson?
2625 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
2626 *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.
2627 Pfluger?
2628 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
2629 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes aye.
2630 Duncan?
2631 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.
2632 *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.
2633 DeGette?
2634 *Ms. DeGette. No.
2635 *The Clerk. DeGette votes no.
2636 Peters?
2637 *Mr. Peters. No.
2638 *The Clerk. Peters votes no.
2639 Fletcher?

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2640 (No response.)
2641 *The Clerk. Matsui?
2642 *Ms. Matsui. No.
2643 *The Clerk. Matsui votes no.
2644 Tonko?
2645 *Mr. Tonko. No.
2646 *The Clerk. Tonko votes no.
2647 Veasey?
2648 (No response.)
2649 *The Clerk. Kuster?
2650 *Ms. Kuster. No.
2651 *The Clerk. Kuster votes no.
2652 Schreier?
2653 *Ms. Schrier. No.
2654 *The Clerk. Schreier votes no.
2655 Castor?
2656 *Ms. Castor. No.
2657 *The Clerk. Castor votes no.
2658 Sarbanes?
2659 *Mr. Sarbanes. No.
2660 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes no.

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2661 Cardenas?

2662 (No response.)

2663 *The Clerk. Blunt Rochester?

2664 (No response.)

2665 *The Clerk. Pallone?

2666 *Mr. Pallone. No.

2667 *The Clerk. Pallone votes no.

2668 Rodgers?

2669 *The Chair. Aye.

2670 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.

2671 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Latta recorded?

2672 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.

2673 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

2674 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

2675 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Bucshon recorded?

2676 *The Clerk. Bucshon is not recorded.

2677 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

2678 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

2679 *Mr. Duncan. Mr. Pence, how is Mr. Pence recorded?

2680 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence is not recorded.

2681 *Mr. Pence. Aye.

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2682 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

2683 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Cardenas recorded?

2684 *The Clerk. Cardenas is not recorded.

2685 *Mr. Cardenas. No.

2686 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes no.

2687 *Mr. Duncan. Any other member unrecorded?

2688 Seeing none, the clerk will report the tally.

2689 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote there were 15

2690 ayes and 10 noes.

2691 *Mr. Duncan. The ayes have it, the amendment is agreed

2692 to.

2693 Are there further amendments?

2694 Ms. Matsui. Mr. Chairman?

2695 *Mr. Duncan. Okay. Ms. Matsui is recognized.

2696 Ms. Matsui. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the

2697 desk labeled AMD 11.

2698 *Mr. Duncan. Clerk will report.

2699 *The Clerk. Amendments of the Committee print for the

2700 Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2024

2701 offered by Ms. Matsui.

2702 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, further reading of the

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2703 amendments dispensed with and the gentlelady is recognized to
2704 explain her amendment.

2705 [The amendment of Ms. Matsui follows:]

2706

2707 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2708

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2709 Ms. Matsui. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

2710 Like my colleagues, I have been disappointed with how
2711 Committee has handled the PHMSA reauthorization. Pipeline
2712 safety is a bipartisan priority, and we should be able to
2713 find agreement on common sense reforms.

2714 During the Subcommittee's hearing on pipeline safety on
2715 January 18th, I asked the PHMSA deputy administrator about
2716 the unique challenges and concerns surrounding hydrogen
2717 pipelines.

2718 Hydrogen is a promising zero-emission energy
2719 alternative, but we don't know enough about the potential
2720 safety implications of blending hydrogen directly into
2721 existing gas pipelines.

2722 My amendment requires pipeline operators to notify PHMSA
2723 if they are blending hydrogen into natural gas pipelines. At
2724 present, pipeline operators are not required to seek
2725 permission or notify regulators if they are blending hydrogen
2726 into existing natural gas pipelines.

2727 Hydrogen leaks more readily than natural gas and is
2728 extremely flammable. It ignites more easily, it burns
2729 hotter, and its flames spread more quickly than gas.

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2730 Hydrogen can also make steel pipes brittle, which can
2731 cause pipes to crack and rupture. This is particularly
2732 concerning for pipelines that run through densely populated
2733 areas and gas distribution pipelines that feed into homes and
2734 commercial buildings.

2735 These pipes are not designed for hydrogen, and the
2736 appliances connected to these pipes are not designed for
2737 hydrogen. This increases the likelihood of leaks and
2738 malfunctions.

2739 Beyond the risk of fire and explosion, hydrogen is also
2740 an indirect greenhouse gas. When released into the
2741 atmosphere and not burned, hydrogen increases the warming
2742 impact of other greenhouse gases, like methane and ozone.

2743 This is not an argument against hydrogen, however. A
2744 booming hydrogen economy is already poised to take off in the
2745 coming years. My home state of California was chosen as one
2746 of the regional clean hydrogen hubs under the bipartisan
2747 infrastructure law, and we have been awarded up to \$1.2
2748 billion to build out the necessary infrastructure to support
2749 a clean hydrogen economy.

2750 However, we must prioritize safety and protect Americans

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2751 from potentially deadly accidents. That means pipeline
2752 safety regulators need to know if hydrogen is being blended
2753 into gas pipelines.

2754 For this reason, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor
2755 of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

2756 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady yields back.

2757 For what purpose is the gentleman from Indiana seek
2758 recognition?

2759 *Mr. Bucshon. I would like to speak in opposition to
2760 the amendment.

2761 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

2762 *Mr. Bucshon. Mr. chairman, Mr. Pence has an amendment
2763 that would require GAO to conduct a study of hydrogen
2764 blending and allow PHMSA to implement new rules and
2765 regulations to move hydrogen blend safely and efficiently.

2766 This amendment would impose an arbitrary paperwork
2767 mandate on pipeline operators. Look, we want to encourage
2768 new technologies and fuels, including hydrogen.

2769 The underlying bill and the Pence amendment ensure that
2770 we address hydrogen blending carefully and methodically. I
2771 would encourage the gentlelady to withdraw the amendment and

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2772 work with us to continue perfecting these provisions.

2773 However, if Ms. Matsu is not willing to withdraw the

2774 amendment, I would recommend a no vote on this amendment

2775 given the unintended consequences that this amendment could

2776 have on all pipelines. I yield back.

2777 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

2778 Is there any further discussion on the amendment?

2779 Seeing none, a roll call vote has been requested, so the

2780 clerk will call the roll.

2781 *The Clerk. Burgess?

2782 (No response.)

2783 *The Clerk. Latta?

2784 (No response.)

2785 *The Clerk. Guthrie?

2786 *Mr. Guthrie. No.

2787 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes no.

2788 Griffith? Griffith?

2789 (No response.)

2790 *The Clerk. Bucshon?

2791 *Mr. Bucshon. No.

2792 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes no.

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2793 Wahlberg?
2794 *Mr. Walberg. No.
2795 *The Clerk. Wahlberg votes no.
2796 Palmer?
2797 *Mr. Palmer. No.
2798 *The Clerk. Palmer votes no.
2799 Curtis?
2800 (No response.)
2801 *The Clerk. Lesko?
2802 *Ms. Lesko. No.
2803 *The Clerk. Lesko votes no.
2804 Pence?
2805 *Mr. Pence. No.
2806 *The Clerk. Pence votes no.
2807 Armstrong?
2808 (No response.)
2809 *The Clerk. Weber?
2810 *Mr. Weber. No.
2811 *The Clerk. Weber votes no.
2812 Balderson?
2813 *Mr. Balderson. No.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2814 *The Clerk. Balderson votes no.
2815 Pfluger?
2816 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
2817 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes no.
2818 Duncan?
2819 *Mr. Duncan. No.
2820 *The Clerk. Duncan votes no.
2821 DeGette?
2822 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
2823 *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.
2824 Peters?
2825 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
2826 *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.
2827 Fletcher?
2828 (No response.)
2829 *The Clerk. Matsui?
2830 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
2831 *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.
2832 Tonko?
2833 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
2834 *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2835 Veasey?
2836 (No response.)
2837 *The Clerk. Kuster?
2838 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
2839 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
2840 Schrier?
2841 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
2842 *The Clerk. Schreier votes aye.
2843 Castor?
2844 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
2845 *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.
2846 Sarbanes?
2847 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
2848 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.
2849 Cardenas?
2850 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
2851 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.
2852 Blunt Rochester?
2853 (No response.)
2854 *The Clerk. Pallone?
2855 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

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2856 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

2857 Rodgers?

2858 *The Chair. No.

2859 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes no.

2860 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Latta recorded?

2861 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.

2862 *Mr. Latta. No.

2863 *The Clerk. Latta votes no.

2864 *Mr. Duncan. Are there any other members unrecorded?

2865 Seeing none _

2866 *Mr. Griffith. How is Griffith recorded?

2867 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith, you are not recorded.

2868 *Mr. Griffith. Excellent. Thank you.

2869 *Mr. Duncan. Any other members unrecorded?

2870 The clerk will report.

2871 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote there were 10

2872 ayes and 12 noes.

2873 *Mr. Duncan. The noes have it and the amendment is not

2874 agreed to.

2875 Are there further amendments to the bill?

2876 *Mr. Pfluger. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2877 desk.

2878 *Mr. Duncan. Mr. Pfluger has an amendment.

2879 The clerk will report.

2880 *The Clerk. Amendments to the Committee print for the
2881 Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2024
2882 offered by Mr. Pfluger _

2883 *Mr. Duncan. Without further objection, the further
2884 reading of the amendment dispensed with and Mr. Pfluger is
2885 recognized to explain the amendment.

2886 [The amendment of Mr. Pfluger follows:]

2887

2888 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2889

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2890 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2891 Pipelines play a vital role in safely providing
2892 affordable, abundant, reliable energy to communities around
2893 the world. And the crews that are building, maintaining, and
2894 repairing these pipelines contribute to environmental
2895 protection, to economic growth, to energy security, and this
2896 is, obviously, indispensable to a variety of businesses
2897 throughout the United States.

2898 Additionally, pipeline construction and repair requires
2899 heavy machinery and near constant movement. It is imperative
2900 that we have the proper safety standards in place to
2901 prioritize both worker and public safety during this process.

2902 Under current law, Chapter 601, Title 49 does not
2903 contain any authority concerning worker or public safety
2904 where pipeline construction or repair activities are
2905 occurring.

2906 There are no notices appearing in designating a safe
2907 distance from construction repair activities. Therefore,
2908 allowing the general public to enter these areas either
2909 deliberately or accidentally, creating an unsafe situation
2910 for citizens and a liability exposure for the companies

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2911 involved.

2912 My amendment is pretty simple. It directs the Secretary
2913 to promulgate a regulation to establish worker and public
2914 safety zones to ensure the public maintains a safe distance
2915 from pipeline construction, from repairs, and other necessary
2916 activities.

2917 This zone will exist at all times during these
2918 activities. It is important to note that this proposal does
2919 not alter or amend any pipeline sighting, permitting,
2920 setbacks, location, or approval authority of the secretary
2921 under Chapter 601 of Title 49, nor does it change landowner
2922 rights in any way.

2923 My amendment simply will create parity with other modes
2924 of transportation under the authority of DOT and ensure
2925 public and worker safety is prioritized.

2926 I urge a yes on this vote and yield back.

2927 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

2928 Any further discussion?

2929 Gentlelady from Colorado is recognized.

2930 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2931 I'm opposed to the amendment as written simply because I

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2932 think it is unworkable. What it does is it requires the
2933 Department of Transportation to establish worker and public
2934 safety zones at each pipeline construction or pipeline repair
2935 site, and it makes it illegal to enter those zones.

2936 I am really sympathetic to the intent of this amendment,
2937 the intent of wanting to keep pipeline workers and the
2938 general public safe. But as written, the amendment would
2939 place an unrealistic burden on PHMSA and the DOT because by
2940 directing the Secretary of Transportation to establish the
2941 zones, what it would mean then is that DOT employees would
2942 have to act as construction managers for privately owned and
2943 operated pipelines.

2944 This would be a huge and expensive ask of the
2945 Department, especially at the same time that this bill is
2946 trying to cut PHMSA's authorization by \$42 million. The
2947 amendment doesn't say that PHMSA should come up with
2948 standards so private companies can establish the zones, and
2949 it effectively requires PHMSA and DOT to do this for any
2950 pipeline construction site across the country.

2951 So it is really impractical. It would likely create
2952 delays in repairs and construction as pipeline operators

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2953 would have to wait on scarce DOT in PHMSA crews.

2954 You know, if we actually had a conversation about how we
2955 could come up with a bipartisan pipeline bill here, then I
2956 think this is something we could try to work on together to
2957 figure out how we could get this safety.

2958 But in the context of the entire bill with the huge cuts
2959 and everything, I just don't think it is going to work. And
2960 so, reluctantly, I have to oppose it, and I yield back.

2961 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady yields back.

2962 Any further discussion on the amendment?

2963 Seeing none, a roll call vote has been requested, so the
2964 clerk will call the roll.

2965 *The Clerk. Burgess?

2966 (No response.)

2967 *The Clerk. Latta?

2968 (No response.)

2969 *The Clerk. Guthrie?

2970 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

2971 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

2972 Griffith?

2973 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2974 *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.
2975 Bucshon?
2976 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.
2977 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.
2978 Wahlberg?
2979 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.
2980 *The Clerk. Wahlberg votes aye.
2981 Palmer?
2982 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
2983 *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.
2984 Curtis?
2985 (No response.)
2986 *The Clerk. Lesko?
2987 (No response.)
2988 *The Clerk. Pence?
2989 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
2990 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.
2991 Armstrong?
2992 (No response.)
2993 *The Clerk. Weber?
2994 *Mr. Weber. Aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

2995 *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.
2996 Balderson?
2997 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
2998 *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.
2999 Pflugger?
3000 *Mr. Pflugger. Aye.
3001 *The Clerk. Pflugger votes aye.
3002 Duncan?
3003 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.
3004 *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.
3005 DeGette?
3006 *Ms. DeGette. No.
3007 *The Clerk. DeGette votes no.
3008 Peters?
3009 (No response.)
3010 *The Clerk. Fletcher?
3011 (No response.)
3012 *The Clerk. Matsui?
3013 *Ms. Matsui. No.
3014 *The Clerk. Matsui?
3015 *Ms. Matsui. No.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3016 *The Clerk. Matsui votes no.
3017 Tonko?
3018 *Mr. Tonko. No.
3019 *The Clerk. Tonko votes no.
3020 Veasey?
3021 (No response.)
3022 *The Clerk. Kuster?
3023 *Ms. Kuster. No.
3024 *The Clerk. Kuster votes no.
3025 Schrier?
3026 *Ms. Schrier. No.
3027 *The Clerk. Schreier votes no.
3028 Castor?
3029 *Ms. Castor. No.
3030 *The Clerk. Castor votes no.
3031 Sarbanes?
3032 *Mr. Sarbanes. No.
3033 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes no.
3034 Cardenas?
3035 *Mr. Cardenas. No.
3036 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes no.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3037 Blunt Rochester?
3038 (No response.)
3039 *The Clerk. Pallone?
3040 *Mr. Pallone. No.
3041 *The Clerk. Pallone votes no.
3042 Rodgers? Rodgers?
3043 *The Chair. Yes.
3044 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.
3045 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Latta recorded?
3046 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
3047 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.
3048 *Mr. Duncan. Mr. Palmer?
3049 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is recorded as aye.
3050 *Mr. Duncan. How is Ms. Lesko recorded?
3051 *The Clerk. Ms. Lesko is not recorded.
3052 *Ms. Lesko. Aye.
3053 *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.
3054 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Peters recorded?
3055 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters is not recorded.
3056 *Mr. Peters. No.
3057 *The Clerk. Peters votes no.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3058 *Mr. Duncan. Are there any other members unrecorded?

3059 Seeing none, the clerk will report the tally.

3060 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote there were 13
3061 ayes and 10 noes.

3062 *Mr. Duncan. The ayes have it and the amendment is
3063 agreed to.

3064 Are there in any other amendments?

3065 Mr. Tonko is recognized.

3066 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have an amendment
3067 at the desk. I believe it's AMD 03.

3068 *Mr. Duncan. The clerk will report the amendment.

3069 *The Clerk. Amendments of the Committee print for the
3070 Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2024
3071 offered by Mr. Tonko.

3072 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, further reading of the
3073 amendment is dispensed with and Mr. Tonko is recognized to
3074 explain his amendment.

3075 [The amendment of Mr. Tonko follows:]

3076

3077 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3078

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3079 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3080 I want to reiterate the concerns that have already been
3081 expressed this morning, that this proposal goes far beyond
3082 the scope of a pipeline safety reauthorization.

3083 Also, I have serious concerns that it goes beyond the
3084 jurisdiction of this Subcommittee. This amendment would
3085 strike Section 3(c), which would require EPA to grant aquifer
3086 exemptions for class six injection wells for geologic
3087 sequestration.

3088 I want to be clear that I am not opposed to class six
3089 wells being permitted. I have sponsored multiple pieces of
3090 legislation to support emerging carbon dioxide removal
3091 technologies, and I believe this industry will inevitably be
3092 a part of achieving our net zero climate goals.

3093 Secure and permanent geological storage sites must be
3094 permitted as part of these efforts. But there is a reason
3095 this permitting is done under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
3096 We must be 100 percent confident that a sequestration site is
3097 not going to endanger people's drinking water.

3098 Unfortunately, this proposed exemption was never
3099 considered by the Environment Subcommittee, which has

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3100 expertise on drinking water policy. And therefore, we never
3101 had an opportunity to hear from EPA or from experts or state
3102 officials responsible for protecting underground sources of
3103 drinking water.

3104 To include this provision as part of a supposed pipeline
3105 safety bill, because it may be tangentially beneficial to the
3106 pipeline industry is simply wrong. It runs counter to the
3107 carefully considered regulatory framework that is being
3108 developed for class six wells, and we have not allowed the
3109 potential impacts of the proposal to be properly considered.

3110 If the majority is serious about responsibly permitting
3111 class six wells, we should carry out the actual oversight
3112 necessary to fully evaluate this proposed exemption and
3113 ensure it would not recklessly undermine the public health
3114 goals of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

3115 I urge members to support this amendment and allow us to
3116 refocus the proposal before us on actual pipeline safety
3117 measures.

3118 With that, Mr. chair, I yield back.

3119 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

3120 Any other members seeking recognition?

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3121 For what purposes does Mr. Latta seek recognition?

3122 *Mr. Latta. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Strike the last
3123 word.

3124 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized for five
3125 minutes.

3126 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much, Mr. chairman.

3127 If we are going to advance our carbon sequestration
3128 policies, we need to do this by using pipelines. If we are
3129 going to use pipelines, we are going to make sure that PHMSA
3130 has standards in place for those facilities. This section
3131 does just that and it also provides direction for operators
3132 to run assessments and modeling to identify high consequence
3133 areas that could be affected by CO2 pipeline release.

3134 We also clarify EPA authority to identify areas suitable
3135 for underground sequestration. This is an important vision
3136 for anybody who wants to advance our carbon capture and
3137 sequestration policies that have been bipartisan.

3138 Striking this section harms CCS, and, Mr. Chairman, I
3139 urge a no vote on the amendment.

3140 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

3141 For what purpose does the gentlelady from Colorado seek

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3142 recognition?

3143 *Ms. DeGette. Move to strike the last word.

3144 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady is recognized for five
3145 minutes.

3146 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you.

3147 I want to take a minute to explore Section 3(c) of the
3148 bill, which deals with the underground sequestration of
3149 carbon dioxide.

3150 We all would have liked to have heard testimony from the
3151 EPA on this section, considering that they implement the law
3152 under which class six wells are regulated.

3153 Unfortunately, the majority didn't have them testify,
3154 and I am concerned that the section has severe issues that
3155 would threaten various underground drinking water sources.

3156 And so since we haven't been able to have a hearing and
3157 ask the EPA, I would just like to ask Committee counsel if
3158 they can answer some of these questions, if you might.

3159 So the first question I have for counsel is, can the EPA
3160 currently issue aquifer exemptions under class six wells?

3161 *Committee Counsel. EPA may in its discretion.

3162 *Ms. DeGette. Okay. In its discretion? Because I

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3163 thought current EPA regulations forbid the use of aquifer
3164 exemptions for new class six wells?

3165 *Committee Counsel. It's our understanding that EPA
3166 may, in its discretion, issue exemptions and we received
3167 technical assistance from EPA.

3168 *Ms. DeGette. Okay. We will check that out. I don't
3169 think that is correct.

3170 As written, Counsel, the bill would effectively
3171 automatically authorize carbon dioxide injection into any
3172 aquifer that currently has an exemption attached to it; is
3173 that correct?

3174 *Committee Counsel. Will you repeat the question?

3175 *Ms. DeGette. Yeah. So as written, the bill would
3176 effectively automatically authorize carbon dioxide injection
3177 into any aquifer that has an exemption attached to it?

3178 *Committee Counsel. I don't believe that the language
3179 directs them to automatically approve.

3180 *Ms. DeGette. Okay.

3181 *Committee Counsel. Could you point to the line and
3182 page number where you see that?

3183 *Ms. DeGette. Do you have a line and page number?

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3184 *Committee Counsel. That language says that the
3185 operator may request EPA.

3186 *Ms. DeGette. Okay. Yeah. It is Section _ what
3187 section is that? Okay. It's Paragraph two of the amendment,
3188 page 8 here. It says, "Designations. In considering a
3189 request under Paragraph one, the administrator shall
3190 designate an aquifer portion thereof, an exempted aquifer."

3191 *Committee Counsel. Again, it doesn't automatically
3192 require the EPA administrator issue that.

3193 *Ms. DeGette. What does shall mean?

3194 *Committee Counsel. In the preceding paragraph, in
3195 general, "Effective immediately, upon the date of enactment
3196 of this subsection owners or operators may request."

3197 *Ms. DeGette. Right. But then _ then paragraph two
3198 says, "The administrator shall, in considering a request,"
3199 so if they decided to request then it says the administrator
3200 shall designate the aquifer, right?

3201 *Committee Counsel. If it meets the criteria set forth
3202 in Paragraphs A through Section _ and C of that underlying
3203 section of the code.

3204 *Ms. DeGette. Okay. Well, I mean, I am really

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3205 concerned that this language would completely undermine the
3206 EPA's Underground Injection Control Program because of this
3207 language, and so I think that we should be very careful what
3208 we do.

3209 I have one last question. Can you detail the difference
3210 between an aquifer exemption and an injection depth waiver?

3211 *Committee Counsel. We would be happy to get back to
3212 you with further answer for the record.

3213 *Ms. DeGette. Okay. What we had _

3214 *Committee Counsel. Do you have a specific question
3215 about the difference?

3216 *Ms. DeGette. _ what we believe is that an aquifer
3217 exemption allows a user to inject or extract resources or
3218 waste into an underground body of water that does not serve
3219 as a source of drinking water and will not serve as a future
3220 source of drinking water. Is that your understanding?

3221 *Committee Counsel. Ma'am, I think we have to see the
3222 accompanying portion of the Code of Federal Regulations that
3223 you are referring to.

3224 *Ms. DeGette. Okay. Well, okay. Thanks for attempting
3225 to answer my questions. I think that we have gotten even

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3226 more confusion from counsel's answers here. And again, if we
3227 ever do decide to have a negotiation on a pipeline bill,
3228 maybe we can talk about this, but I don't think there is
3229 enough knowledge here to pass this amendment. I would urge a
3230 no vote.

3231 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady yields back.

3232 Is there further discussion?

3233 *Ms. DeGette. This section, I urge a yes vote on the
3234 Tonko Amendment.

3235 *Mr. Duncan. Gentlelady yields back.

3236 Is there further discussion on the amendment?

3237 Seeing none, a roll call vote has been requested so the
3238 clerk will call the roll on the Tonko Amendment.

3239 *The Clerk. Burgess?

3240 *Mr. Burgess. No.

3241 *The Clerk. Burgess votes no.

3242 Latta?

3243 *Mr. Latta. No.

3244 *The Clerk. Latta votes no.

3245 Guthrie?

3246 *Mr. Guthrie. No.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3247 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes no.
3248 Griffith?
3249 *Mr. Griffith. No.
3250 *The Clerk. Griffith votes no.
3251 Bucshon?
3252 *Mr. Bucshon. No.
3253 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes no.
3254 Wahlberg?
3255 (No response.)
3256 *The Clerk. Palmer?
3257 *Mr. Palmer. No.
3258 *The Clerk. Palmer votes no.
3259 Curtis?
3260 (No response.)
3261 *The Clerk. Lesko?
3262 (No response.)
3263 *The Clerk. Pence?
3264 *Mr. Pence. No.
3265 *The Clerk. Pence votes no.
3266 Armstrong?
3267 (No response.)

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3268 *The Clerk. Weber?
3269 *Mr. Weber. No.
3270 *The Clerk. Weber votes no.
3271 Balderson?
3272 *Mr. Balderson. No.
3273 *The Clerk. Balderson votes no.
3274 Pfluger?
3275 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
3276 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes no.
3277 Duncan?
3278 *Mr. Duncan. No.
3279 *The Clerk. Duncan votes no.
3280 DeGette?
3281 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
3282 *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.
3283 Peters?
3284 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
3285 *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.
3286 Fletcher?
3287 (No response.)
3288 *The Clerk. Matsui?

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3289 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3290 *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.
3291 Tonko?
3292 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
3293 *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.
3294 Veasey?
3295 (No response.)
3296 *The Clerk. Kuster?
3297 (No response.)
3298 *The Clerk. Schrier?
3299 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
3300 *The Clerk. Schreier votes aye.
3301 Castor?
3302 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
3303 *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.
3304 Sarbanes?
3305 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
3306 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.
3307 Cardenas?
3308 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
3309 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3310 Blunt Rochester?

3311 (No response.)

3312 *The Clerk. Pallone?

3313 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

3314 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

3315 Rodgers?

3316 *The Chair. No.

3317 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes no.

3318 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Walberg recorded?

3319 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg is not recorded.

3320 *Mr. Walberg. No.

3321 *The Clerk. Walberg votes no.

3322 *Mr. Duncan. How is Ms. Lesko recorded?

3323 *The Clerk. Ms. Lesko is not recorded.

3324 *Ms. Lesko. No.

3325 *The Clerk. Ms. Lesko votes no.

3326 *Ms. Custer. How is Ms. Custer recorded?

3327 *The Clerk. Ms. Custer, you are not recorded.

3328 *Ms. Custer. Aye.

3329 *The Clerk. Custer votes aye.

3330 *Mr. Duncan. Any other member unrecorded?

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3331 Seeing none, the clerk will report the tally.

3332 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote, there were 10
3333 ayes and 14 noes.

3334 *Mr. Duncan. The noes haven't. The amendment is not
3335 agreed to.

3336 Are there further amendments to be offered?

3337 Ms. Kuster. Mr. Chair?

3338 *Mr. Duncan. Yes. Ms. Kuster?

3339 Ms. Kuster. I have an amendment at the desk AMD 12.

3340 *Mr. Duncan. The clerk will report the amendment.

3341 *The Clerk. Amendments to the Committee print of the
3342 Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2024.

3343 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, further reading of the
3344 amendment is dispensed with and Ms. Kuster is recognized to
3345 explain her amendment.

3346 [The amendment of Ms. Kuster follows:]

3347

3348 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3349

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3350 Ms. Kuster. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3351 The Non-application Clause in 49 USC 60104(b) prevents
3352 PHMSA from applying new design, installation, construction,
3353 or testing standards to existing pipelines. This can have
3354 dire consequences.

3355 In 2018, a series of fires and explosions destroyed 131
3356 homes, injuring 22 people, and killing one person in
3357 Lawrence, Massachusetts right next to my district, in
3358 representative Lori Trahan's district.

3359 The cause of faulty cast iron pipe led to over
3360 pressurization on the gas system. Thankfully, in response,
3361 Congress gave PHMSA the authority to prevent over
3362 pressurization.

3363 However, if there is a new development in valves that
3364 could save lives, like rupture mitigation valves, PHMSA is
3365 prohibited by the Non-application Clause from requiring those
3366 safety measures to be added to older pipes.

3367 My amendment eliminates the Non-application Clause and
3368 directs PHMSA to ensure that all pipelines meet the most up
3369 to date safety standards. We know how important natural gas
3370 is to so many facets of American society, electricity

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3371 generation, home heating, cooking, and industrial purposes.

3372 My amendment will help ensure the system used to deliver
3373 natural gas is safe and reliable by eliminating the Non-
3374 application Clause. I urge my colleagues to vote for this
3375 common-sense amendment, and I yield back.

3376 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady yields back.

3377 Any further discussion on the amendment?

3378 Dr. Burgess, you are recognized.

3379 *Mr. Burgess. Yes, Chairman, I want to speak, or speak
3380 against the amendment.

3381 This adds a new section, requires the Secretary to issue
3382 a rule with a five-year timetable for what are called Uniform
3383 Standards for Pipeline Safety Compliance.

3384 The measure is in fact duplicative, and the requirements
3385 are duplicative to force paperwork and reporting requirements
3386 to have so-called uniform standards across the entire
3387 nation's pipeline system.

3388 That's more than three and a half million miles of
3389 pipelines. Each pipeline operator is required to develop a
3390 Custom Integrity Management Plan for each and every segment
3391 of the pipeline. The standards are not uniform for a reason.

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3392 Each is highly technical and depend upon each pipeline's
3393 unique circumstances. And they are treated different
3394 differently whether or not they are in densely populated
3395 areas, environmental sensitive areas, or other circumstances.

3396 So for that reason, Mr. Chairman, I would urge a no vote
3397 on the amendment that I think will weaken pipeline safety and
3398 unnecessarily increase cost for the American people. I yield
3399 back.

3400 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

3401 Is there further discussion on the amendment?

3402 Seeing none, a roll call vote has been requested. Clerk
3403 will call the roll

3404 *The Clerk. Burgess?

3405 *Mr. Burgess. No.

3406 *The Clerk. Burgess votes no.

3407 Latta?

3408 *Mr. Latta. No.

3409 *The Clerk. Latta votes no.

3410 Guthrie?

3411 (No response.)

3412 *The Clerk. Griffith?

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3413 *Mr. Griffith. No.
3414 *The Clerk. Griffith votes no.
3415 Bucshon?
3416 (No response.)
3417 *The Clerk. Wahlberg?
3418 (No response.)
3419 *The Clerk. Palmer?
3420 *Mr. Palmer. No.
3421 *The Clerk. Palmer votes no.
3422 Curtis?
3423 (No response.)
3424 *The Clerk. Lesko?
3425 (No response.)
3426 *The Clerk. Pence?
3427 *Mr. Pence. No.
3428 *The Clerk. Pence votes no.
3429 Armstrong?
3430 (No response.)
3431 *The Clerk. Weber?
3432 *Mr. Weber. No.
3433 *The Clerk. Weber votes no.

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3434 Balderson?
3435 *Mr. Balderson. No.
3436 *The Clerk. Balderson votes no.
3437 Pfluger?
3438 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
3439 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes no.
3440 Duncan?
3441 *Mr. Duncan. No.
3442 *The Clerk. Duncan votes no.
3443 DeGette?
3444 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
3445 *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.
3446 Peters?
3447 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
3448 *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.
3449 Fletcher?
3450 (No response.)
3451 *The Clerk. Matsui?
3452 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3453 *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.
3454 Tonko?

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3455 (No response.)
3456 *The Clerk. Veasey?
3457 (No response.)
3458 *The Clerk. Tonko?
3459 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
3460 *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.
3461 Veasey?
3462 (No response.)
3463 *The Clerk. Kuster?
3464 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
3465 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
3466 Schrier?
3467 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
3468 *The Clerk. Schreier votes aye.
3469 Castor?
3470 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
3471 *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.
3472 Sarbanes?
3473 (No response.)
3474 *The Clerk. Cardenas?
3475 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3476 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.
3477 Blunt Rochester?
3478 (No response.)
3479 *The Clerk. Pallone?
3480 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
3481 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.
3482 Rodgers?
3483 *The Chair. No.
3484 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes no.
3485 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Guthrie recorded?
3486 *Mr. Guthrie. No.
3487 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
3488 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Bucshon recorded?
3489 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon is not recorded.
3490 *Mr. Bucshon. No.
3491 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes no.
3492 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Walberg?
3493 *Mr. Walberg. No.
3494 *The Clerk. Walberg votes not.
3495 *Mr. Duncan. And how is Ms. Lesko recorded?
3496 *The Clerk. Ms. Lesko is not recorded.

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3497 *Ms. Lesko. No.

3498 *The Clerk. Lesko votes no.

3499 *Mr. Duncan. Are there any other members unrecorded?

3500 Seeing none, the clerk will report the tally.

3501 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote, there were nine
3502 ayes and 14 noes.

3503 *Mr. Duncan. The nays have it. The amendment is not
3504 agreed to.

3505 Are there further amendments to the bill?

3506 Dr. Schrier.

3507 *Ms. Schrier. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
3508 desk. It is labeled AMD 23.

3509 *Mr. Duncan. Clerk will report the amendment.

3510 *The Clerk. Amendments of the Committee print for the
3511 Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2024
3512 offered by Ms. Schrier.

3513 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, further reading of the
3514 amendment is dispensed with, and Dr. Schrier is recognized to
3515 explain her amendment.

3516 [The amendment of Dr. Schrier follows:]

3517

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3518 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3519

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3520 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3521 Mr. chairman, back in January, we heard from PHMSA's
3522 assistant administrator about the resource constraints the
3523 agency is laboring under. And the fact that there are
3524 several congressional mandates, not just from the 2020
3525 reauthorization, but also from the 2016 law that PHMSA has
3526 been unable to fulfill on time due to limited resources.

3527 Other members of this Subcommittee, including Ranking
3528 Member DeGette, have spoken about their concerns on the
3529 resources side for PHMSA, and I want to associate myself with
3530 those comments.

3531 However, I am also concerned that even if PHMSA has the
3532 resources necessary, it may not have the staffing levels
3533 necessary to ensure that congressional mandates and important
3534 rule make rulemakings get done on time.

3535 This is especially vital this reauthorization cycle as I
3536 expect PHMSA will be tackling important rulemakings on
3537 hydrogen safety, which is especially relevant to my
3538 constituents now that Washington state will be home to a new
3539 Department of Energy hydrogen hub.

3540 My bill would address this problem by allowing PHMSA to

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3541 increase its staffing levels with the express intent of using
3542 those additional staff to develop and implement pipeline
3543 safety policies and fulfill congressional mandates.

3544 I also want to emphasize that similar to one Republican
3545 amendment that we have already adopted today, this language
3546 was verbatim, in the Transportation and Infrastructure
3547 Committee's bill, which passed with broad bipartisan support.

3548 I cannot think of a reason why this should not get
3549 bipartisan support here. I think we all want to see PHMSA
3550 complete its job in a timely manner, in an efficient manner,
3551 and this amendment would help it do just that.

3552 I urge support for this amendment, and I yield back.

3553 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady yields back.

3554 Is there further discussion on the amendment?

3555 I recognize myself. I would like to strike the last
3556 word and speak in opposition to the amendment, so I recognize
3557 myself to do so.

3558 And this amendment would authorize PHMSA to hire 30 new
3559 staff to develop regulations. We are trying to streamline
3560 the process, not add to the bureaucracy.

3561 Expanding the federal agency is not the answer to make

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3562 PHMSA more effective, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this
3563 amendment. And I will yield back.

3564 Further discussion on the amendment?

3565 Seeing none, a roll call has been requested. The clerk
3566 will call the roll.

3567 *The Clerk. Burgess?

3568 *Mr. Burgess. No.

3569 *The Clerk. Burgess votes no.

3570 Latta?

3571 *Mr. Latta. No.

3572 *The Clerk. Latta votes no.

3573 Guthrie?

3574 (No response.)

3575 *The Clerk. Griffith?

3576 *The Clerk. Griffith votes no.

3577 Bucshon?

3578 (No response.)

3579 *The Clerk. Wahlberg?

3580 (No response.)

3581 *The Clerk. Palmer?

3582 *Mr. Palmer. No.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3583 *The Clerk. Palmer votes no.
3584 Curtis?
3585 (No response.)
3586 *The Clerk. Lesko?
3587 (No response.)
3588 *The Clerk. Pence?
3589 *Mr. Pence. No.
3590 *The Clerk. Pence votes no.
3591 Armstrong?
3592 (No response.)
3593 *The Clerk. Weber?
3594 *Mr. Weber. No.
3595 *The Clerk. Weber votes no.
3596 Balderson?
3597 *Mr. Balderson. No.
3598 *The Clerk. Balderson votes no.
3599 Pfluger?
3600 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
3601 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes no.
3602 Duncan?
3603 *Mr. Duncan. No.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3604 *The Clerk. Duncan votes no.
3605 DeGette?
3606 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
3607 *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.
3608 Peters?
3609 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
3610 *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.
3611 Fletcher?
3612 (No response.)
3613 *The Clerk. Matsui?
3614 *Ms. Matsui. No.
3615 *The Clerk. Matsui votes no.
3616 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3617 *The Clerk. Matsui is off no, on aye.
3618 Tonko? Tonko?
3619 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
3620 *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.
3621 Veasey?
3622 (No response.)
3623 *The Clerk. Kuster?
3624 (No response.)

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3625 *The Clerk. Schrier?
3626 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
3627 *The Clerk. Schreier votes aye.
3628 Castor?
3629 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
3630 *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.
3631 Sarbanes?
3632 (No response.)
3633 *The Clerk. Cardenas?
3634 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
3635 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.
3636 Blunt Rochester?
3637 (No response.)
3638 *The Clerk. Pallone?
3639 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
3640 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.
3641 Rodgers?
3642 *The Chair. No.
3643 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes no.
3644 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Guthrie recorded?
3645 *Mr. Guthrie. No.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3646 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.

3647 *Mr. Duncan. How is Dr. Bucshon recorded?

3648 *The Clerk. Bucshon is not recorded.

3649 *Mr. Bucshon. No.

3650 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes no.

3651 *Mr. Duncan. How is Ms. Lesko recorded?

3652 *The Clerk. Ms. Lesko _

3653 *Ms. Lesko. No.

3654 *The Clerk. Ms. Lesko votes no.

3655 *Mr. Duncan. How is Ms. Kuster recorded?

3656 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster is not recorded.

3657 *Ms. Kuster. I vote aye.

3658 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

3659 *Mr. Duncan. For clarification, how is Ms. Matsui
3660 recorded?

3661 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui is recorded as aye.

3662 *Mr. Duncan. Thank you. I heard two different things
3663 so thank you.

3664 Any other member unrecorded?

3665 Seeing none, the clerk will report the tally.

3666 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote, there were nine

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3667 ayes and 13 noes.

3668 *Mr. Duncan. The nays have it. The amendment is not
3669 agreed to.

3670 Are there further amendments?

3671 Ms. Castor is recognized.

3672 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
3673 amendment at the desk labeled AMD 8.

3674 *Mr. Duncan. The clerk will report the amendment.

3675 *The Clerk. Amendment to the Committee print for the
3676 Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2024
3677 offered by Ms. Castor.

3678 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, further reading of the
3679 amendments dispensed with. Ms. Castor is recognized to
3680 explain her amendment.

3681 [The amendment of Ms. Castor follows:]

3682

3683 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3684

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3685 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3686 You know, pipelines can be very dangerous when they are
3687 neglected, and fatal accidents occur every year. On average,
3688 there are over 600 pipeline safety incidents in each year
3689 resulting in 31 injuries and 10 deaths.

3690 In January, an explosion from a natural gas line in Fort
3691 Worth, Texas injured 21 people. And safety concerns are not
3692 just related to natural gas pipelines. In 2020, 45 people
3693 were hospitalized after a carbon dioxide pipeline ruptured in
3694 Mississippi.

3695 So my amendment would do a few things, all of which
3696 would make pipelines across America safer. First, it would
3697 index pipeline safety fines to inflation. This is an
3698 important update that would make penalties for safety
3699 violations more meaningful, especially as some of the fee
3700 provisions have not been updated since 1994.

3701 And we have to ensure that the polluting pipeline
3702 companies skirting safety rules are held accountable.
3703 Frankly, I think the fines should be increased, but in the
3704 spirit of trying to craft language that could be acceptable
3705 to both sides, my language would simply keep the fines at the

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3706 levels they were enacted at, but allow them to grow over time
3707 by indexing.

3708 The second change my amendment would make is to remove
3709 the cumulative limit on a related series of violations.
3710 Right now, current law puts a cap on the fines that can be
3711 levied on a pipeline operator for a related series of
3712 violations.

3713 This means that if a pipeline operator had a violation
3714 that went on for 10 days, it is conceivable that they would
3715 face no more incremental fines for their continued violation
3716 of pipeline safety laws. That would sharply lower their
3717 incentive to fix their violation.

3718 I do not want our laws to be overly punitive, but I do
3719 want to make certain that they are incentivizing pipeline
3720 operators to obey them. And ensuring operators are held to
3721 account and that they just can't try and wait out the clock
3722 to save their bottom line, it will help do just that.

3723 Finally, my bill would change the criminal standard used
3724 to assess if pipeline operators have committed a crime. This
3725 would enable pipeline operators to be held criminally liable
3726 if they knowingly, willfully, or recklessly violate the law.

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3727 Pipeline operators should not be able to claim that they
3728 were unaware of pipeline safety standards as an excuse to
3729 violate them.

3730 Therefore, my amendment would allow for the prosecution
3731 of pipeline operators that recklessly ignore safety laws and
3732 regulations, ensuring that they are held accountable.

3733 Mr. Chairman, my amendment would make common-sense
3734 changes to the pipeline safety law. It is designed with the
3735 hope that it could be bipartisan, so I urge all of our
3736 colleagues to support it. Thank you, and I yield back.

3737 *Mr. Duncan. The gentlelady yields back.

3738 Is there further discussion on the amendment?

3739 I recognize myself. I move to strike the last word and
3740 speak opposition to the amendment. I am recognized.

3741 You know, I think one problem that congresses have had
3742 in the past is arbitrary language that leaves the legislation
3743 up to the courts to decide what the congressional meaning is.

3744 I think this amendment increases civil penalties for
3745 violations as a vague new reckless standard. I think
3746 reckless is subjective. So I would like to talk about the
3747 amendment.

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3748 The amendment here attempts to increase the civil
3749 penalties for violations by tying them to inflation.
3750 Reckless spending, poor fiscal policy of Democrats is driving
3751 inflation in this country and now they are attempting to
3752 weaponize it against the providers of energy.

3753 The amendment also attempts to add the new reckless
3754 standard. The current statute covers knowingly and
3755 willfully, which are intentional acts. Reckless is not, and
3756 it would trigger the potential for more penalties.

3757 Penalties should be associated with acts that are done
3758 intentionally and knowingly. So I urge my colleagues to
3759 oppose this amendment and with that I yield back.

3760 Is there further discussion on the amendment?

3761 Seeing none, a roll call vote has been requested and the
3762 clerk will call the roll.

3763 *The Clerk. Burgess?

3764 *Mr. Burgess. No.

3765 *The Clerk. Burgess votes no.

3766 Latta?

3767 *Mr. Latta. No.

3768 *The Clerk. Latta votes no.

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3769 Guthrie?
3770 *Mr. Guthrie. No.
3771 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes no.
3772 Griffith?
3773 *Mr. Griffith. No.
3774 *The Clerk. Griffith votes no.
3775 Bucshon?
3776 *Mr. Bucshon. No.
3777 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes no.
3778 Wahlberg?
3779 (No response.)
3780 *The Clerk. Palmer?
3781 *Mr. Palmer. No.
3782 *The Clerk. Palmer votes no.
3783 Curtis?
3784 (No response.)
3785 *The Clerk. Lesko?
3786 (No response.)
3787 *The Clerk. Pence?
3788 *Mr. Pence. No.
3789 *The Clerk. Pence votes no.

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3790 Armstrong?
3791 (No response.)
3792 *The Clerk. Weber?
3793 *Mr. Weber. No.
3794 *The Clerk. Weber votes no.
3795 Balderson?
3796 *Mr. Balderson. No.
3797 *The Clerk. Balderson votes no.
3798 Pfluger?
3799 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
3800 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes no.
3801 Duncan?
3802 *Mr. Duncan. No.
3803 *The Clerk. Duncan votes no.
3804 DeGette?
3805 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
3806 *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.
3807 Peters?
3808 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
3809 *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.
3810 Fletcher?

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3811 (No response.)
3812 *The Clerk. Matsui?
3813 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3814 *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.
3815 Tonko?
3816 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
3817 *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.
3818 Veasey?
3819 (No response.)
3820 *The Clerk. Kuster?
3821 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
3822 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
3823 Schrier?
3824 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
3825 *The Clerk. Schreier votes aye.
3826 Castor?
3827 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
3828 *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.
3829 Sarbanes?
3830 (No response.)
3831 *The Clerk. Cardenas?

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3832 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
3833 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.
3834 Blunt Rochester?
3835 (No response.)
3836 *The Clerk. Pallone?
3837 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
3838 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.
3839 Rodgers?
3840 *The Chair. No.
3841 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes no.
3842 *Mr. Duncan. How is Ms. Lesko recorded?
3843 *The Clerk. Ms. Lesko is not recorded.
3844 *Ms. Lesko. No.
3845 *The Clerk. Lesko votes no.
3846 *Mr. Duncan. Any other member unrecorded?
3847 Seeing none, the clerk will report the tally.
3848 How is Mr. Walberg recorded?
3849 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg, you are not recorded.
3850 *Mr. Walberg. No.
3851 *The Clerk. Walberg votes no.
3852 *Mr. Duncan. Any other members unrecorded?

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3853 Clerk will report.

3854 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote there were nine
3855 ayes and 14 noes.

3856 *Mr. Duncan. The nays have it and the amendment is not
3857 agreed to.

3858 Are there further amendments at the desk?

3859 Mr. Cardenas is recognized.

3860 *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have
3861 amendment at the desk labeled AMD 7.

3862 *Mr. Duncan. Clerk will report the amendment.

3863 *The Clerk. Amendment to the Committee print for the
3864 Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2024.

3865 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection further reading of the
3866 amendment is dispensed with. Mr. Cardenas is recognized to
3867 explain his amendment.

3868 [The amendment of Mr. Cardenas follows:]

3869

3870 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3871

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3872 *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3873 Just two months ago, we heard from experts that spoke
3874 about the shortfalls in the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
3875 Safety Administration PHMSA Community Liaison Program.

3876 For instance, the aftermath of an incident like a
3877 pipeline explosion, there is currently no public information
3878 officer that community members can go to for answers. This
3879 can breed misinformation, distrust, and outright panic and
3880 chaos in situations. Our American citizens deserve better.

3881 During that hearing, our witness, Mr. Karam, from the
3882 Pipeline Safety Trust said, it has also led to significant
3883 frustration among the public. PHMSA's ineffective public
3884 engagement is understandably frustrating because it fails the
3885 health and safety and well-being of our communities.

3886 I commend the Transportation and Infrastructure
3887 Committee for working in a bipartisan manner to address this
3888 issue by including a more fleshed out Office of Public
3889 Engagement in their pipeline safety bill, the PIPES Act of
3890 2023.

3891 The language is certainly not perfect, but it is an
3892 important starting point on this issue that could be built

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3893 upon in future reauthorizations once Congress has had time to
3894 conduct proper oversight of the new office.

3895 Unfortunately, despite expert testimony and a bipartisan
3896 recognition that there is a need for improved public
3897 engagement, Republicans on this Committee have failed to
3898 include any provisions that improve PHMSA's public engagement
3899 program in today's pipeline safety bill.

3900 My amendment would add the exact language from the T&I
3901 bill to establish the Office of Public Engagement to improve
3902 outreach education and access to safety programs and
3903 assistance.

3904 Additionally, the language in my amendment and in the
3905 T&I bill creates strong congressional oversight of the
3906 program. To be clear, this is language that passed out of
3907 the T&I Committee unanimously. All Republicans and Democrats
3908 voting yes.

3909 Every single member on the Transportation and
3910 Infrastructure Committee voted on a package that included
3911 this language, from the far right to the far left.

3912 Personally, I would have preferred to go further, but I
3913 wanted to craft this amendment to be identical to the

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3914 language that had already secured bipartisan support just
3915 three months ago.

3916 I cannot think of any reason why this should be a
3917 partisan amendment. With over 600 pipeline safety incidents
3918 a year, it is important we improve public engagement and
3919 education.

3920 Our constituents deserve that at the very least. It is
3921 time that Republicans on this Committee get serious about
3922 pipeline safety and work with Democrats to better serve and
3923 protect our constituents through pursuing a bipartisan
3924 reauthorization process.

3925 If my colleagues want to show they are serious about
3926 bipartisanship in the process, they will vote yes on my
3927 amendment. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this
3928 amendment and no on the underlying bill.

3929 I am going to take a point of personal privilege, Mr.
3930 Chairman. I noticed that we have a monitor on this side of
3931 the room that half of it is white and the other half is
3932 regular colored.

3933 And if we could get that monitor changed, but my request
3934 is if we could use an energy efficient monitor to replace it.

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3935 I with that, I yield back.

3936 *Mr. Duncan. It costs too much. That is right.

3937 The gentleman yields back.

3938 Any further discussion on the amendment?

3939 And Mr. Balderson is recognized.

3940 *Mr. Balderson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like
3941 to strike the last word to speak in opposition to this
3942 amendment.

3943 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized.

3944 *Mr. Balderson. Thank you. PHMSA already maintains a
3945 strong program to engage with community members and
3946 stakeholders in regulatory decision making. I am not sure
3947 this amendment is necessary.

3948 I would note the Biden Administration has not asked for
3949 this authority, and we have no record in Committee that would
3950 establish the legislative need for this provision. If the
3951 gentleman is willing to withdraw the amendment, we would be
3952 happy to work with him and them.

3953 Otherwise, I would recommend a no vote until we can
3954 understand whether PHMSA's current program and authority
3955 should be modified. I urge my colleagues to withdraw this

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3956 amendment so we can further work on this issue.

3957 I yield back.

3958 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

3959 Is there any other discussion on the amendment?

3960 Seeing none, a roll call vote has been requested, so the
3961 clerk will call the roll.

3962 *The Clerk. Burgess?

3963 *Mr. Burgess. No.

3964 *The Clerk. Burgess votes no.

3965 Latta?

3966 *Mr. Latta. No.

3967 *The Clerk. Latta votes no.

3968 Guthrie?

3969 (No response.)

3970 *The Clerk. Griffith?

3971 *Mr. Griffith. No.

3972 *The Clerk. Griffith votes no.

3973 Bucshon?

3974 *Mr. Bucshon. No.

3975 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes no.

3976 Wahlberg?

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3977 *Mr. Walberg. No.
3978 *The Clerk. Wahlberg votes no.
3979 Palmer?
3980 *Mr. Palmer. No.
3981 *The Clerk. Palmer votes no.
3982 Curtis?
3983 (No response.)
3984 *The Clerk. Lesko?
3985 (No response.)
3986 *The Clerk. Pence?
3987 (No response.)
3988 *The Clerk. Armstrong?
3989 (No response.)
3990 *The Clerk. Weber?
3991 *Mr. Weber. No.
3992 *The Clerk. Weber votes no.
3993 Balderson?
3994 *Mr. Balderson. No.
3995 *The Clerk. Balderson votes no.
3996 Pfluger?
3997 *Mr. Pfluger. No.

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3998 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes no.

3999 Duncan?

4000 *Mr. Duncan. No.

4001 *The Clerk. Duncan votes no.

4002 DeGette?

4003 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

4004 *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.

4005 Peters?

4006 *Mr. Peters. Aye.

4007 *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.

4008 Fletcher?

4009 (No response.)

4010 *The Clerk. Matsui?

4011 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

4012 *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.

4013 Tonko?

4014 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

4015 *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.

4016 Veasey?

4017 (No response.)

4018 *The Clerk. Kuster?

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4019 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
4020 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
4021 Schrier?
4022 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
4023 *The Clerk. Schreier votes aye.
4024 Castor?
4025 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
4026 *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.
4027 Sarbanes?
4028 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
4029 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.
4030 Cardenas?
4031 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
4032 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.
4033 Blunt Rochester?
4034 (No response.)
4035 *The Clerk. Pallone?
4036 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
4037 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.
4038 Rodgers?
4039 *The Chair. No.

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4040 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes no.

4041 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Guthrie recorded?

4042 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie is not recorded.

4043 *Mr. Guthrie. No.

4044 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes no.

4045 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Pence recorded?

4046 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence is not recorded.

4047 *Mr. Pence. No.

4048 *The Clerk. Pence votes no.

4049 *Mr. Duncan. How is Ms. Lesko recorded?

4050 *The Clerk. Ms. Lesko is not recorded.

4051 *Ms. Lesko. No.

4052 *The Clerk. Lesko votes no.

4053 *Mr. Duncan. Any other member unrecorded?

4054 Seeing none, the clerk will report the tally.

4055 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote there were 10

4056 eyes and 14 noes.

4057 *Mr. Duncan. The nays have it. The amendment is not

4058 agreed to.

4059 Any other amendments to be offered?

4060 Mr. Cardenas is recognized. Excuse me, Mr. Sarbanes is

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4061 recognized.

4062 *Mr. Sarbanes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
4063 amendment at the desk labeled Amendment 5.

4064 *Mr. Duncan. The clerk will report the amendment, and I
4065 apologize.

4066 *The Clerk. Amendments to the Committee print for the
4067 Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2024
4068 offered by Mr. Sarbanes. Strike Section 15 relating to _

4069 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, further reading on the
4070 amendments dispensed with and then Mr. Sarbanes recognized to
4071 explain the amendment.

4072 [The amendment of Mr. Sarbanes follows:]

4073

4074 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4075

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4076 *Mr. Sarbanes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4077 This amendment would simply strike a provision from the
4078 bill that has absolutely nothing to do with pipeline safety.
4079 Section 15 of the bill doesn't try to hide what it is. It is
4080 entitled modernizing and expanding pipelines. It is a blank
4081 check for any pipeline company to expand or build a new
4082 pipeline along an existing right of way.

4083 Notably, it would allow the Federal Energy Regulatory
4084 Commission or FERC to bulldoze over states' rights under the
4085 Clean Water Act.

4086 The Clean Water Act, as we know, mandates that any
4087 project requiring a permit under the law must also acquire a
4088 certificate from the relevant state to show that the state
4089 approves the activity and does not believe that its waters
4090 will be unduly harmed.

4091 This state certification process is absolutely vital to
4092 the cooperative federalism created by the Clean Water Act.
4093 It lets states have a say in the projects built within their
4094 borders and ensures that states can keep their waters clean.

4095 Unfortunately, Section 15 of this bill, which this
4096 amendment seeks to strike, not only gives FERC the authority

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4097 to bypass or overrule other federal agencies to grant an
4098 authorization required for a pipeline under any federal law,
4099 but it also jeopardizes states' rights under the Clean Water
4100 Act by allowing it to also bypass them in some instances.

4101 Under Section 15, FERC cannot issue a permit if a state
4102 has denied a Water Quality Certificate. However, it may
4103 bypass the state certification process to issue a permit if a
4104 state agency is still contemplating the permit after a year.

4105 This means that a state may actually be incentivized to
4106 prematurely deny any application that it has doubts on rather
4107 than take the proper and appropriate time to understand the
4108 implications because of the risk that FERC will override that
4109 due consideration.

4110 Frankly, unfortunately, this approach seems to be in
4111 line with the Republican approach to permitting generally in
4112 this Congress, throwing together so-called fixes that would
4113 actually do nothing to fix and navigate the tricky and
4114 complex issues that we are facing.

4115 You will also notice that nowhere in my description of
4116 the language in the bill or my amendment that I say the words
4117 pipeline safety. That is because this language has nothing

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4118 to do with pipeline safety.

4119 As the Ranking Member said, if Republicans want to move
4120 these permitting measures independently, they are welcome to
4121 do so. They are in the majority. That is their right. But
4122 they cannot include poison pill permitting provisions in a
4123 pipeline safety bill and just expect the rest of us to go
4124 along.

4125 I urge my colleagues to adopt my amendment to strike
4126 this language, which would allow us to actually start
4127 negotiating on the bill. Thank you, and I yield back, Mr.
4128 Chair.

4129 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

4130 Is there further discussion on the amendment?

4131 I recognize myself and move to strike last word and
4132 recognize myself to speak in opposition of this amendment.

4133 This strikes Section 15 of the pipeline print, which
4134 concerns modernizing and expanding pipelines. This section
4135 is vital to the ongoing safety of our pipeline system.

4136 It will enable modernization of existing pipelines and
4137 make use of existing right of ways already approved. This
4138 section provides FERC backstop authority to issue a federal

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4139 permit for inspection, repair, and maintenance related
4140 construction, modification of an existing pipeline or a new
4141 pipeline collocated within the existing right of way.

4142 This kicks in if other entities failed to issue the
4143 necessary federal permits after one year. Now, the left
4144 doesn't want energy and have been doing all they can to kill
4145 new infrastructure.

4146 States like New York are blocking critical
4147 infrastructure and harming consumers in other states, but
4148 this concerns existing infrastructure, and it is within our
4149 jurisdiction to improve this infrastructure for the benefit
4150 of the American public.

4151 We should give FERC the authority to update this
4152 infrastructure and increase usefulness for the existing
4153 systems. Striking this important section will harm existing
4154 pipelines and harm our energy security as well as our
4155 economy.

4156 So I urge a no vote on this amendment and I yield back.

4157 Any further discussion on the amendment?

4158 Seeing none, a roll call has been requested, so the
4159 clerk will call the roll.

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4160 *The Clerk. Burgess?
4161 *Mr. Burgess. No.
4162 *The Clerk. Burgess votes no.
4163 Latta?
4164 *Mr. Latta. No.
4165 *The Clerk. Latta votes no.
4166 Guthrie?
4167 (No response.)
4168 *The Clerk. Griffith?
4169 *Mr. Griffith. No.
4170 *The Clerk. Griffith votes no.
4171 Bucshon?
4172 (No response.)
4173 *The Clerk. Wahlberg?
4174 (No response.)
4175 *The Clerk. Palmer?
4176 *Mr. Palmer. No.
4177 *The Clerk. Palmer votes no.
4178 Curtis?
4179 (No response.)
4180 *The Clerk. Lesko?

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4181 *Ms. Lesko. No.
4182 *The Clerk. Lesko votes no.
4183 Pence?
4184 *Mr. Pence. No.
4185 *The Clerk. Pence votes no.
4186 Armstrong?
4187 (No response.)
4188 *The Clerk. Weber?
4189 (No response.)
4190 *The Clerk. Balderson?
4191 *Mr. Balderson. No.
4192 *The Clerk. Balderson votes no.
4193 Pfluger?
4194 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
4195 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes no.
4196 Duncan?
4197 *Mr. Duncan. No.
4198 *The Clerk. Duncan votes no.
4199 DeGette?
4200 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
4201 *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.

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4202 Peters?
4203 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
4204 *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.
4205 Fletcher?
4206 (No response.)
4207 *The Clerk. Matsui?
4208 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
4209 *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.
4210 Tonko?
4211 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
4212 *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.
4213 Veasey?
4214 (No response.)
4215 *The Clerk. Kuster?
4216 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
4217 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
4218 Schrier?
4219 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
4220 *The Clerk. Schreier votes aye.
4221 Castor?
4222 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

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4223 *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.
4224 Sarbanes?
4225 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
4226 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.
4227 Cardenas?
4228 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
4229 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.
4230 Blunt Rochester?
4231 (No response.)
4232 *The Clerk. Pallone?
4233 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
4234 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.
4235 Rodgers?
4236 *The Chair. No.
4237 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes no.
4238 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Guthrie recorded?
4239 *Mr. Guthrie. No.
4240 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes no.
4241 *Mr. Duncan. How is Dr. Bucshon recorded?
4242 *The Clerk. Bucshon is not recorded.
4243 *Mr. Bucshon. No.

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4244 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes no.

4245 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Walberg recorded?

4246 *The Clerk. Walberg is not recorded.

4247 *Mr. Walberg. No.

4248 *The Clerk. Walberg votes no.

4249 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Weber recorded?

4250 *The Clerk. Weber is not recorded.

4251 *Mr. Weber. No.

4252 *The Clerk. Weber votes no.

4253 *Mr. Duncan. Any other member unrecorded?

4254 Seeing none, the clerk will report the tally.

4255 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote, there were 10
4256 ayes and 14 noes.

4257 *Mr. Duncan. The noes have it, and the amendment is not
4258 agreed to.

4259 Are there further amendments to the bill?

4260 Mr. Pallone is recognized.

4261 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. chairman. I have an
4262 amendment at the desk labeled AMD 09.

4263 *Mr. Duncan. The clerk will report the amendment.

4264 *The Clerk. Amendment to the Committee print for the

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4265 Pipeline Safety Modernization _

4266 *Mr. Duncan. Without objection, further reading of the
4267 amendments dispensed with. Mr. Pallone is recognized.

4268 [The amendment of Mr. Pallone follows:]

4269

4270 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4271

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4272 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4273 My amendment is fairly simple. It would amend the bill
4274 to strike the duplicative cost benefit analysis that PHMSA's
4275 rules are subject to that has no other comparison across the
4276 federal government.

4277 This statutory restriction has given industry a hook for
4278 litigation that ultimately endangers Americans and makes
4279 pipelines across the country less safe.

4280 I want to be clear. Executive Order 12866 from 1993
4281 requires that every major rule reviewed by OMB have an
4282 economic review that includes a cost benefit analysis.

4283 The PHMSA's rules are no different in that respect, but
4284 what is different about PHMSA is that within its authorizing
4285 statute is a requirement that prohibits the agency from
4286 proposing or finalizing a standard until it can complete a
4287 cost benefit analysis.

4288 So the issue is twofold. The first is that the dual
4289 requirement for a proposed and final standard can
4290 significantly slow down PHMSA's rule making processes. And
4291 the second is that having the requirement in law as opposed
4292 to following the executive order has given pipeline companies

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4293 the ability to pursue spurious lawsuits against PHMSA safety
4294 standards.

4295 So this Subcommittee heard just as much in testimony
4296 that we received in January from the Pipeline Safety Trust.
4297 In fact, in a court case last May, the DC Circuit noted
4298 PHMSA's unique hybrid rulemaking procedures as the agency is
4299 constrained by the language, well, I am sorry _ what we are
4300 basically trying to do, I want to be clear, is that my
4301 amendment proposes to strike, you know, this duplicate of
4302 provision, Mr. chairman.

4303 Because this led the DC Circuit to rule against PHMSA
4304 and vacate part of a final rule implementing a new safety
4305 standard mandating remote controlled and automatic shutoff
4306 valves in gathering pipelines.

4307 So PHMSA had enacted that final rule pursuant to
4308 instructions from congress in 2011, but if we want PHMSA to
4309 do as we direct, we can't continue to insist that it try to
4310 do its job while stuck between a rock and a hard place.

4311 And just to note, this safety standard mandating remote
4312 control and automatic shutoff valves was something that I put
4313 in, you know, as I said, we are going back, a few years ago

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4314 as a result of an explosion that took place in my district.

4315 And as a result, we realized that having these remote
4316 controlled and automatic shuttle valves would be very
4317 valuable to prevent explosions or damage, you know, to
4318 residents in the area near the pipeline.

4319 So if we adopt my amendment, the Administrative
4320 Procedure Act and Executive Order 12866 will still mandate
4321 that any major rule makings will have a cost benefit analysis
4322 performed before being finalized, but we would put PHMSA on
4323 an even playing field with every other energy,
4324 transportation, and safety regulation.

4325 So I urge support for my amendment, and with that, I
4326 yield back.

4327 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

4328 Is there further discussion on the amendment?

4329 Mr. Wahlberg, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

4330 *Mr. Walberg. I would like to strike the last word and
4331 speak in opposition to the amendment.

4332 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman is recognized for five
4333 minutes.

4334 *Mr. Walberg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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4335 This amendment adjusts the PHMSA cost benefit analysis
4336 to exclude the reasonableness of the standard, reasonably
4337 identified identifiable benefits, and reasonably identifiable
4338 costs from consideration.

4339 This amendment would completely remove the Secretary's
4340 requirement to consider costs and benefits when performing
4341 risk assessments and to report to congress on assessments.
4342 PHMSA regulation should be cost effective and risk based and
4343 informed.

4344 I believe that this amendment guts that standard, and so
4345 I urge a no vote on this amendment.

4346 *Mr. Duncan. The gentleman yields back.

4347 Is there further discussion?

4348 Seeing none, a roll call vote has been requested so the
4349 clerk will call the roll.

4350 *The Clerk. Burgess?

4351 *Mr. Burgess. No.

4352 *The Clerk. Burgess votes no.

4353 Latta?

4354 *Mr. Latta. No.

4355 *The Clerk. Latta votes no.

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4356 Guthrie?
4357 (No response.)
4358 *The Clerk. Griffith?
4359 *Mr. Griffith. No.
4360 *The Clerk. Griffith votes no.
4361 Bucshon?
4362 *Mr. Bucshon. No.
4363 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes no.
4364 Wahlberg?
4365 *Mr. Walberg. No.
4366 *The Clerk. Wahlberg votes no.
4367 Palmer?
4368 *Mr. Palmer. No.
4369 *The Clerk. Palmer votes no.
4370 Curtis?
4371 (No response.)
4372 *The Clerk. Lesko?
4373 *Ms. Lesko. No.
4374 *The Clerk. Lesko votes no.
4375 Pence?
4376 *Mr. Pence. No.

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4377 *The Clerk. Pence votes no.
4378 Armstrong?
4379 (No response.)
4380 *The Clerk. Weber?
4381 *Mr. Weber. No.
4382 *The Clerk. Weber votes no.
4383 Balderson? Balderson?
4384 *Mr. Balderson. No.
4385 *The Clerk. Balderson votes no.
4386 Pfluger?
4387 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
4388 *The Clerk. Pfluger votes no.
4389 Duncan?
4390 *Mr. Duncan. No.
4391 *The Clerk. Duncan votes no.
4392 DeGette?
4393 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
4394 *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.
4395 Peters?
4396 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
4397 *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.

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4398 Fletcher?
4399 (No response.)
4400 *The Clerk. Matsui?
4401 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
4402 *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.
4403 Tonko?
4404 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
4405 *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.
4406 Veasey?
4407 (No response.)
4408 *The Clerk. Kuster?
4409 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
4410 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
4411 Schrier?
4412 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
4413 *The Clerk. Schreier votes aye.
4414 Castor?
4415 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
4416 *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.
4417 Sarbanes?
4418 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.

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4419 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.

4420 Cardenas?

4421 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

4422 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

4423 Blunt Rochester?

4424 (No response.)

4425 *The Clerk. Pallone?

4426 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

4427 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

4428 Rodgers?

4429 *The Chair. No.

4430 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes no.

4431 *Mr. Duncan. How is Mr. Guthrie recorded?

4432 *Mr. Guthrie. No.

4433 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.

4434 *Mr. Duncan. Any other member unrecorded?

4435 Seeing none, the clerk will report the tally.

4436 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan on that vote, there were 10

4437 ayes and 14 noes.

4438 *Mr. Duncan. The nays have it, and the amendment is not

4439 agreed to.

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4440 Ms. DeGette?

4441 *Ms. DeGette. Mr. Chairman, I have move to strike the
4442 last word.

4443 *Ms. DeGette. The gentlelady moves to strike the last
4444 word and you are recognized for five minutes.

4445 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4446 We are done, I think, with the amendments at this point,
4447 and we are getting ready to have a final passage, vote on
4448 this bill.

4449 I just want to reiterate what I said in my opening
4450 statement, which is that the PHMSA most recent pipeline
4451 safety reauthorization expired in September and the Democrats
4452 have been very eager to work, in a bipartisan way, on
4453 reauthorization.

4454 In fact, today, we even agreed to two of the Republican
4455 amendments to the bill while the Republicans didn't agree to
4456 any of our amendments. And in addition, not only that, but
4457 some of the amendments that we wanted to make made it in line
4458 with what is already happening in the appropriations bills
4459 and in other pieces of legislation.

4460 And so I will just reiterate, if we really want to

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4461 legislate in this Committee, then I would suggest that we
4462 actually try to work in a bipartisan way just like we did on
4463 our nuclear bill, which now is going over to the Senate.

4464 And so, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say those things.
4465 I hope we can work together and I yield back, and I know
4466 we're going to go to final vote.

4467 *Mr. Duncan. Well, I appreciate the gentlelady's
4468 comments, and there are a couple of amendments I think we can
4469 work on. I have talked with staff about them, and we will
4470 continue to work before we go to full Committee to see if we
4471 can incorporate some of that, but that is a work in progress.

4472 Is there a further discussion? First off, are there any
4473 other amendments to be offered?

4474 Seeing none, is there further discussion on the bill?

4475 Seeing none. The pending question is adoption of the
4476 bill as amended.

4477 The roll call vote is necessary, so the clerk will call
4478 the roll.

4479 *The Clerk. Burgess?

4480 *Mr. Burgess. Aye.

4481 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

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4482 Latta?
4483 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
4484 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.
4485 Guthrie?
4486 (No response.)
4487 *The Clerk. Griffith?
4488 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
4489 *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.
4490 Bucshon?
4491 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.
4492 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.
4493 Wahlberg?
4494 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.
4495 *The Clerk. Wahlberg votes aye.
4496 Palmer?
4497 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
4498 *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.
4499 Curtis?
4500 (No response.)
4501 *The Clerk. Lesko?
4502 *Ms. Lesko. Aye.

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4503 *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.
4504 Pence?
4505 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
4506 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.
4507 Armstrong?
4508 (No response.)
4509 *The Clerk. Weber?
4510 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
4511 *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.
4512 Balderson?
4513 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
4514 *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.
4515 Pflugger?
4516 *Mr. Pflugger. Aye.
4517 *The Clerk. Pflugger votes aye.
4518 Duncan?
4519 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.
4520 *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.
4521 DeGette?
4522 *Ms. DeGette. No.
4523 *The Clerk. DeGette votes no.

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4524 Peters?
4525 *Mr. Peters. No.
4526 *The Clerk. Peters votes no.
4527 Fletcher?
4528 (No response.)
4529 *The Clerk. Matsui?
4530 *Ms. Matsui. No.
4531 *The Clerk. Matsui votes no.
4532 Tonko?
4533 *Mr. Tonko. No.
4534 *The Clerk. Tonko votes no.
4535 Veasey?
4536 (No response.)
4537 *The Clerk. Kuster?
4538 *Ms. Kuster. No.
4539 *The Clerk. Kuster votes no.
4540 Schrier?
4541 *Ms. Schrier. No.
4542 *The Clerk. Schreier votes no.
4543 Castor?
4544 *Ms. Castor. No.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

4545 *The Clerk. Castor votes no.
4546 Sarbanes?
4547 *Mr. Sarbanes. No.
4548 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes no.
4549 Cardenas?
4550 *Mr. Cardenas. No.
4551 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes no.
4552 Blunt Rochester?
4553 (No response.)
4554 *The Clerk. Pallone?
4555 *Mr. Pallone. No.
4556 *The Clerk. Pallone votes no.
4557 Rodgers?
4558 *The Chair. Aye.
4559 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.
4560 *Mr. Duncan. Any other members unrecorded?
4561 How is Mr. Guthrie recorded?
4562 *Mr. Guthrie. Vote aye.
4563 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.
4564 *Mr. Duncan. Any other members unrecorded?
4565 Seeing none, the clerk will report the tally.

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

4566 *The Clerk. Chair Duncan, on that vote, there were 14
4567 ayes and 10 noes.

4568 *Mr. Duncan. The ayes have it, and the bill, as
4569 amended, is agreed to, and will be moved to the full
4570 Committee.

4571 Without objection, the staff is authorized to make
4572 technical and conforming changes to the legislation approved
4573 by the Subcommittee today, so ordered.

4574 And without objection, the Subcommittee will stand
4575 adjourned.

4576 I appreciate everyone's attendance and participation.

4577 [Whereupon, at 12:49 p.m., the Subcommittee was
4578 adjourned.]