

AMENDMENT TO H.R. _____
OFFERED BY MR. FLORES OF TEXAS

Add at the end the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT.**

2 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-
4 portation shall convene a working group to consider better
5 practices for engaging the public on pipeline safety.

6 (b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The working group convened
7 pursuant to subsection (a) shall include balanced represen-
8 tation from—

9 (1) Federal, Tribal, State, and local officials re-
10 sponsible for pipeline safety oversight;

11 (2) liquids and natural gas transmission and
12 distribution pipeline operating companies and sys-
13 tems; and

14 (3) public, safety, environmental, and labor ad-
15 vocates and representatives.

16 (c) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—The working group convened
17 pursuant to subsection (a) shall consider and provide rec-
18 ommendations to the Secretary on—

1 (1) the scope of engagement between individ-
2 uals, groups, companies, agencies, and the public at
3 large;

4 (2) better practices for communication of poten-
5 tial or proposed pipeline projects;

6 (3) better practices for communication for exist-
7 ing pipelines;

8 (4) better practices for communication of pipe-
9 line risk and hazards;

10 (5) better practices for communication of pipe-
11 line safety requirements and pipeline safety activi-
12 ties; and

13 (6) better engagement around emergency re-
14 sponse for pipelines.

15 (d) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 1 year after the
16 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish
17 the consensus recommendations of the working group.

18 **SEC. ____. USE OF A FIREARM TO DAMAGE PIPELINE INFRA-**
19 **STRUCTURE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.**

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

22 “(e) PENALTY FOR USING A FIREARM TO DAMAGE
23 PIPELINE INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.—

24 “(1) PENALTY.—A person who knowingly and
25 willfully uses a firearm to puncture a pipe, pump, or

1 valve intended to be used in a facility described in
2 subsection (b) shall be fined under title 18, impris-
3 oned for not more than 5 years, or both.

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

