

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To require a GAO review of State policies relating to natural gas leaks.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 1st Sess.

**S. 2276**

To amend title 49, United States Code, to provide enhanced safety in pipeline transportation, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. MARKEY

Viz:

- 1 At the end, add the following:
- 2 **SEC. 21. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF STATE POLI-**
- 3 **CIES RELATING TO NATURAL GAS LEAKS.**
- 4 (a) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General of the United
- 5 States shall conduct a State-by-State review of State-level
- 6 policies that—
- 7 (1) encourage the repair and replacement of
- 8 leaking natural gas distribution pipelines or systems
- 9 that pose a safety threat, such as timelines to repair
- 10 leaks and limits on cost recovery from ratepayers;
- 11 and

1           (2) that may create barriers for entities to con-  
2           duct work to repair and replace leaking natural gas  
3           pipelines or distribution systems.

4           (b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date  
5 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall  
6 submit to Congress and the Pipeline and Hazardous Mate-  
7 rials Safety Administration a report summarizing the find-  
8 ings of the review conducted under subsection (a) and  
9 making recommendations on Federal or State policies or  
10 best practices that may improve safety by accelerating the  
11 repair and replacement of natural gas pipelines or systems  
12 that are leaking or releasing natural gas, including policies  
13 within the jurisdiction of the Pipeline and Hazardous Ma-  
14 terials Safety Administration. The report shall consider  
15 the potential impact, including potential savings, of the  
16 implementation of its recommendations on ratepayers or  
17 end users of the natural gas pipeline system.

18           (c) CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—If the  
19 Comptroller General makes recommendations in the report  
20 submitted under subsection (a) on Federal or State poli-  
21 cies or best practices within the jurisdiction of the Pipeline  
22 and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the Ad-  
23 ministrators shall, not later than 90 days after such sub-  
24 mission, review such recommendations and report to Con-  
25 gress on the feasibility of implementing such recommenda-

1 tions. If the Administrator determines that the rec-  
2 ommendations would significantly improve pipeline safety,  
3 the Administrator shall, not later than 180 days after  
4 making such determination and in coordination with the  
5 heads of other relevant agencies as appropriate, issue reg-  
6 ulations, as the Administrator determines appropriate, to  
7 implement the recommendations.