

## HR 5120

SAFER Pipelines Act of 2019

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Transportation and Public Works

**Introduced:** Nov 15, 2019

**Current Status:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 545.

**Latest Action:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 545. (Dec 17, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5120>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** OR • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (2 total)

| Cosponsor                                   | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]           | D · NJ        |      | Nov 15, 2019 |
| Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large] | D · DC        |      | Nov 22, 2019 |

### Committee Activity

| Committee                                   | Chamber | Activity        | Date         |
|---------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|--------------|
| Energy and Commerce Committee               | House   | Referred to     | Nov 18, 2019 |
| Transportation and Infrastructure Committee | House   | Discharged from | Nov 20, 2019 |

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

### Related Bills

| Bill        | Relationship | Last Action                                                                              |
|-------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 116 HR 3432 | Related bill | <b>Nov 20, 2019:</b> Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute by Voice Vote. |
| 116 HR 4700 | Related bill | <b>Oct 17, 2019:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy.                             |

## Safe, Accountable, Fair, and Environmentally Responsible Pipelines Act of 2019 or the SAFER Pipelines Act of 2019

This bill addresses natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines safety.

Among other things, the bill

- reauthorizes pipeline safety activities through FY2023;
- prioritizes assessment methods for transmission pipelines that can provide a greater level of safety than direct assessment, including the use of internal inspection devices or pressure testing;
- makes it mandatory for each operator of a transmission pipeline facility in a high consequence area to install automatic or remote shutoff valves;
- directs owners and operators of gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facilities to make critical operational information available to surrounding communities and first responders;
- increases civil penalties for violations and revises the criminal penalty standard from *knowingly and willfully* to *knowingly or recklessly*;
- requires advanced leak-detection that can identify leak locations and amounts released on gas pipelines;
- directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to finalize a rule on gas gathering lines; and
- authorizes DOT to establish a confidential and nonpunitive voluntary information-sharing system to improve natural gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipeline safety.

### Actions Timeline

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- **Dec 17, 2020:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H. Rept. 116-661, Part I.
- **Dec 17, 2020:** Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged.
- **Dec 17, 2020:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 545.
- **Nov 20, 2019:** Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Discharged.
- **Nov 20, 2019:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Nov 20, 2019:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 32 - 26.
- **Nov 18, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.
- **Nov 18, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy.
- **Nov 15, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 15, 2019:** Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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