

**AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. RUSH OF ILLINOIS
TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A
SUBSTITUTE FOR H.R. 8**

In subtitle A of title I, add at the end the following
new section:

**1 SEC. 1111. IMPROVING THE NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION
2 SYSTEM.**

3 (a) FINDING.—Cost-effective efforts to replace cast
4 and wrought iron and bare steel pipes and other leak-
5 prone components of the natural gas distribution system
6 can improve both the public safety and environmental per-
7 formance of the system, and these efforts can be acceler-
8 ated while minimizing the financial impact on low-income
9 households.

10 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary
11 of Energy shall establish a competitive program to provide
12 financial assistance to States to incentivize natural gas
13 distribution companies to accelerate or expand utility pro-
14 grams that improve the public safety and environmental
15 performance of the natural gas distribution system
16 through investment in—

1 (1) accelerated replacement of cast and wrought
2 iron and bare steel pipes and other leak-prone com-
3 ponents of the system; and

4 (2) enhanced inspection and maintenance pro-
5 grams for the system.

6 (c) **RATE ASSISTANCE.**—Any funds provided to
7 States under subsection (b) shall be used to offset the
8 near-term incremental costs, as reflected in rate increases
9 to low-income households, of the replacement, inspection,
10 and maintenance programs described in subsection (b)(1)
11 and (2).

12 (d) **ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS.**—Awards may be provided
13 under subsection (b) only for replacement, inspection, and
14 maintenance programs established or expanded after the
15 date of enactment of this Act.

16 (e) **AWARD LIMITS.**—Awards provided to States
17 under subsection (b) shall be for transitional assistance
18 for a period not to exceed 4 years.

19 (f) **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**—Applicants for
20 awards under subsection (b) shall demonstrate how finan-
21 cial assistance will be integrated in rate-setting programs
22 and applied to targeted beneficiaries.

23 (g) **PRIORITIZATION.**—In making awards under this
24 section, the Secretary shall prioritize applications based
25 on—

- 1 (1) calculated benefits for public safety;
- 2 (2) the magnitude of methane emissions reduc-
- 3 tions;
- 4 (3) innovation in technical and policy ap-
- 5 proaches;
- 6 (4) the number of beneficiaries of the assist-
- 7 ance; and
- 8 (5) the overall cost-effectiveness of the pro-
- 9 gram.

10 (h) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “low-in-

11 come household” means a household that is eligible to re-

12 ceive payments under section 2605(b)(2) of the Low-In-

13 come Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C.

14 8624(b)(2)).

15 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There

16 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry

17 out this section \$350,000,000 per fiscal year, with the

18 total amount not to exceed \$3,500,000,000.

