

AUGUST 31, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 15205 - Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act Amendments of 1974 which authorizes appropriations for fiscal years 1975 and 1976 for carrying out the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act.

The Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 provides for the setting of Federal safety standards by the Secretary of Transportation for facilities used in the transportation by pipeline or in the storage of natural and other gases.

The Act gives DOT exclusive safety authority over gas pipeline systems which are subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Power Commission and which are part of or affect interstate or foreign commerce. The Act also gives DOT overall responsibility for the safety regulation of intrastate gas pipeline systems covered by the Act.

Currently, the Act provides a single authorization for both grants-in-aid and for DOT's expenses of running the program. H. R. 15205 would provide two separate authorizations for grants and for DOT's expenses.

H. R. 15205 would provide separate annual authorizations for both categories for fiscal years 1975 and 1976 only. The bill provides authorizations for the grants-in-aid in the amounts of \$1.8 million and \$2.5 million for 1975 and 1976, respectively, compared to \$1.2 million and \$1.45 million for those years requested by DOT. The DOT appropriation bill provides appropriations of \$1.2 million for 1975 for grants-in-aid.

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