

Funding Request Announcement

Date: February 25, 2024
Issue: Damage Prevention
Product: Research Report and Issue Brief
Funding Goal: \$50,000
Project Timeline: Q2 2025

The Alliance for Innovation and Infrastructure (Aii) is excited to announce a new research project to equip the damage prevention industry, key stakeholders, and policymakers across the country with better tools and information related to marine damage prevention. We are seeking funding to support the development of a report that would survey the laws and regulatory codes from all 50 states and key districts to provide examples and comparisons in approaches to excavation damage prevention in marine environments.

About Us

Since our establishment, Aii has been dedicated to fostering innovation and improving infrastructure. Our efforts have led to significant advancements in policy and practice, earning us recognition as a leading non-profit in this field. Aii is governed by a board with two past administrators of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), a longtime chair of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), as well as other infrastructure experts, bringing years of insight and experience to our study of damage prevention and related infrastructure topics.

The Need

Excavation damage prevention is a critical topic. Every year, hundreds of thousands of strikes and near misses to pipelines and other facilities lead to major economic costs, public safety risks, environmental hazards, and service disruptions. Marine damage prevention has historically received very little attention. State laws and regulatory codes may lack critical language that leaves a gap in protecting underwater infrastructure. Lawmakers may be unaware of how their and other state laws address this topic.

The Solution

To address these challenges, Aii is researching state laws and regulatory approaches. This research and subsequent report will provide a survey of law and regulation from every state and notable federal and national organizations and agencies. This work will serve:

- **State Legislatures:** who can compare and update their laws based on peer states.
- **Industry Stakeholders:** who will gain insight into the rules and practices across the U.S.
- **Advocates:** who may leverage this work to promote reform in law or best practices.
- **Academics:** who may advance this research toward other applications.
- **Media & the Interested Public:** who will learn more about this key but niche aspect of excavation damage prevention and critical infrastructure.
- **Businesses:** who will benefit directly from a better understanding of marine damage prevention laws and improvements to those laws that protect their facilities.

Impact of Your Contribution

We invite you to join Aii in our dedication to providing independent analysis and objective research on topics of critical and national importance. Your support will help us achieve our goals and bring about lasting change in the understanding and application of damage prevention laws and practices. Together, we can promote transparency, safety, and innovation in infrastructure development.

Your funding will specifically help us review every state's excavation damage prevention laws as well as implementing regulations in the states that have them. We will cross reference this with industry and federal programs and practices to provide an overview for stakeholders on the treatment and types of approaches that exist for excavation damage prevention in marine environments. **This will lead to improved pipeline safety and protect critical assets.**

The final product will provide legal code excerpts for direct comparison between and among states that can be utilized by state legislators considering reform or by industry reform advocates to leverage in their efforts to promote safety and raise awareness. All research efforts will also be converted into educational material, informational graphics, and multi-media resources to serve wider audiences and promote engagement with our independent analysis.

How You Can Help

Please help us make a difference! Support Aii in advancing damage prevention research. Aii is seeking \$50,000 to bring new analysis on excavation damage laws and regulations across the United States. You have Aii's commitment that your support will be used to create a valuable research report that serves policymakers, legislators, damage prevention stakeholders, academics, media, and the public.

There are two pathways for providing monetary support to Aii based on individual and corporate preferences:

- Aii's 501(c)(3), the Public Institute for Facility Safety
 - tax deductible contributions
- Aii's 501(c)(4), the National Infrastructure Safety Foundation
 - undisclosed donors and not tax deductible

To learn more about partnership opportunities or making corporate donations, please visit our website at Aii.org and contact Aii Executive Director, Benjamin Dierker at bdierker@aii.org.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to the opportunity to partner with you and create a brighter future for our infrastructure and communities.