

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2478

To authorize the Secretary of Transportation to partner with industry to strengthen the safety culture and safety practices of short line and regional freight railroads.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 17, 2014

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Transportation to partner with industry to strengthen the safety culture and safety practices of short line and regional freight railroads.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Short Line Railroad
5 Safety Enhancement Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The use of new oil recovery techniques, par-
9 ticularly in regions without a sufficient number of

1 developed pipeline networks, has led to rapid growth
2 in the transportation of crude oil by rail.

3 (2) Recent accidents in North America involv-
4 ing trains carrying crude oil, such as the July 2013
5 tragedy in Lac-Megantic, Quebec, have brought the
6 need for enhanced safety into focus.

7 (3) Short line and regional railroads have
8 workforces and resources that are much smaller
9 than large Class I railroads, but these railroads are
10 expected to handle the same commodities safely.

11 (4) Cooperative safety reviews, assessments,
12 and training approaches can enhance safety by fos-
13 tering an enhanced safety culture. Cooperation be-
14 tween industry and the Federal Railroad Adminis-
15 tration's Research and Development Program would
16 enhance rail safety with respect to the transpor-
17 tation of crude oil by rail and in all other areas of
18 rail transportation.

19 **SEC. 3. SHORT LINE AND REGIONAL RAILROAD SAFETY**
20 **GRANTS.**

21 Section 20108 of title 49, United States Code, is
22 amended by adding at the end the following:

23 “(d) SHORT LINE AND REGIONAL RAILROAD SAFETY
24 TRAINING INITIATIVE.—

1 “(1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary
2 may award grants to private or nonprofit organiza-
3 tions involved in, or affiliated with, transportation by
4 Class II and Class III railroads.

5 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded
6 under this subsection shall be used for research, de-
7 velopment, evaluation, and training efforts that are
8 designed to enhance rail safety practices and safety
9 culture.

10 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

11 “(A) FISCAL YEAR 2015.—There is author-
12 ized to be appropriated to the Secretary
13 \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 for grants
14 under this subsection.

15 “(B) FISCAL YEARS 2016 THROUGH 2019.—
16 There are authorized to be appropriated to the
17 Secretary such sums as may be necessary for
18 each of the fiscal years 2016 through 2019 for
19 grants under this subsection.

20 “(C) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appro-
21 priated pursuant to this paragraph shall remain
22 available until expended.”.

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