



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

May 22, 2017

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman, Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As required by Section 7307 of the FAST Act, this letter provides an update on the progress of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (Department) rulemaking titled, "Hazardous Materials: Oil Spill Response Plans for High-Hazard Flammable Trains" (HM-251B).

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) was published July 29, 2016, and the comment period for the NPRM closed September 27, 2016. To date, the Department has received approximately 131 comments. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is currently drafting the final rule and Regulatory Impact Analysis with assistance from the Federal Railroad Administration. PHMSA estimates the rulemaking will be published in Fiscal Year 2018. The Department will continue to communicate to Congress as required by the FAST Act until a final rule is promulgated.

I have sent a similar letter to the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elaine L. Chao".

Elaine L. Chao



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

May 22, 2017

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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May 22, 2017

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

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THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

May 22, 2017

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member, Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

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