



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

January 3, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter provides an update on the progress of the U.S. Department of Transportation's rulemaking titled "Hazardous Materials: Oil Spill Response Plans for High-Hazard Flammable Trains" (HM-251B), pursuant to Section 7307 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act). This update provides information on Departmental progress since the previous update of September 13, 2017.

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

A similar letter has been sent to the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Sincerely,


Elaine L. Chao



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

January 3, 2018

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

Dear Senator Nelson:

This letter provides an update on the progress of the U.S. Department of Transportation's rulemaking titled "Hazardous Materials: Oil Spill Response Plans for High-Hazard Flammable Trains" (HM-251B), pursuant to Section 7307 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act). This update provides information on Departmental progress since the previous update of September 13, 2017.

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A similar letter has been sent to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Sincerely,


Elaine L. Chao



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January 3, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,


Elaine L. Chao



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WASHINGTON, DC 20590

January 3, 2018

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

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

This letter provides an update on the progress of the U.S. Department of Transportation's rulemaking titled "Hazardous Materials: Oil Spill Response Plans for High-Hazard Flammable Trains" (HM-251B), pursuant to Section 7307 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act). This update provides information on Departmental progress since the previous update of September 13, 2017.

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