

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 988

To provide for a study by the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies on the impact of diverting certain freight rail traffic to avoid urban areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2017

Mr. ELLISON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To provide for a study by the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies on the impact of diverting certain freight rail traffic to avoid urban areas, and for other purposes.

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. STUDY ON IMPACT OF DIVERTING CERTAIN**
4 **FREIGHT RAIL TO AVOID URBAN AREAS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 months after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-
7 tation shall make appropriate arrangements with the
8 Transportation Research Board of the National Acad-

1 emies under which the Board shall conduct a study on
2 the cost and impact of rerouting freight rail traffic con-
3 taining hazardous material to avoid transportation of such
4 hazardous material through urban areas.

5 (b) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—The study described
6 under subsection (a) shall include—

7 (1) the benefits of rerouting freight rail traffic
8 containing hazardous material to alternate railroad
9 routes that avoid urban areas, including benefits to
10 the health and safety of the individuals living in
11 such urban areas;

12 (2) the benefits of construction of alternative
13 railroad routes that avoid urban areas for transpor-
14 tation of freight rail containing hazardous material;

15 (3) the logistical feasibility of the actions de-
16 scribed in paragraphs (1) and (2); and

17 (4) the costs of taking the actions described in
18 paragraphs (1) and (2).

19 (c) REPORT.—In entering into an arrangement under
20 subsection (a), the Secretary shall request that the Board
21 transmit to Congress a report on the results of the study
22 not later than 21 months after the date of enactment of
23 this Act.

24 (d) DEFINITIONS.—

1 (1) HAZARDOUS MATERIAL.—The term “haz-
2 ardous material” has the meaning given such term
3 in section 5102 of title 49, United States Code.

4 (2) URBAN AREA.—The term “urban area”
5 means an urban area, as designated by the Bureau
6 of the Census, with a population of greater than
7 30,000.

8 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated \$850,000 to carry out
10 this Act.

○