

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3361

To prohibit United States assistance to develop or promote any rail connections or railway-related connections that traverse or connect Baku, Azerbaijan; Tbilisi, Georgia; and Kars, Turkey, and that specifically exclude cities in Armenia.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 20, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG (for himself, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. RADANOVICH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To prohibit United States assistance to develop or promote any rail connections or railway-related connections that traverse or connect Baku, Azerbaijan; Tbilisi, Georgia; and Kars, Turkey, and that specifically exclude cities in Armenia.

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 “South Caucasus Inte-  
5 gration and Open Railroads Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) United States policy toward the countries of  
4 the South Caucasus is intended to foster regional  
5 stability and enhanced cooperation.

6 (2) The development of political, economic, and  
7 security ties among all countries of the South  
8 Caucasus and between the South Caucasus region  
9 and the West, will enhance regional stability and ad-  
10 vance United States interests.

11 (3) The development of open and integrated  
12 transportation routes in the countries of the South  
13 Caucasus will provide positive incentives for inter-  
14 national private investment, increased trade, and  
15 other forms of commercial interaction with the rest  
16 of the world.

17 (4) The Republic of Armenia is a valued ally of  
18 the United States and democratic countries through-  
19 out the world. The United States continues to value  
20 the strong bond that exists between Armenia and  
21 the United States.

22 (5) The exclusion of Armenia from regional eco-  
23 nomic and commercial undertakings in the South  
24 Caucasus undermines the United States policy goal  
25 of promoting a stable and cooperative environment  
26 in the region.

1           (6) A new railroad has been proposed con-  
2           necting Baku, Azerbaijan; Tbilisi, Georgia; and  
3           Kars, Turkey, which would cost at least \$400 to  
4           \$800 million to build.

5           (7) The proposed railroad specifically bypasses  
6           Armenia and serves to isolate Armenia from East-  
7           West commercial corridors.

8           (8) A railroad that connects Tbilisi, Georgia;  
9           Gyumri, Armenia; and Kars, Turkey, already exists.

10          (9) The existing railroad is in working condition  
11          and could be operational within weeks of an agree-  
12          ment among Armenia, Georgia, and Turkey, with  
13          minor repairs needed in specific locations.

14          (10) Azerbaijan's leading role in developing the  
15          proposed Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railroad and other simi-  
16          lar actions by Azerbaijan serve to undermine and  
17          avoid a just solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh con-  
18          flict and potentially destabilize the region.

19 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE FOR**  
20                   **THE PROPOSED BAKU-TBILISI-KARS RAIL-**  
21                   **ROAD.**

22          (a) PROHIBITION.—Assistance under the provisions  
23          of law described in subsection (b) may not be made avail-  
24          able to develop or promote any rail connections or railway-  
25          related connections that do not traverse or connect with

1 Armenia, and do traverse or connect Baku, Azerbaijan;  
2 Tbilisi, Georgia; and Kars, Turkey.

3 (b) PROVISIONS OF LAW.—The provisions of law re-  
4 ferred to in subsection (a) are the following:

5 (1) Title IV of chapter 2 of part I of the For-  
6 eign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2191 et  
7 seq.; relating to the Overseas Private Investment).

8 (2) Chapter 12 of part I of the Foreign Assist-  
9 ance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2296 et seq.; relating  
10 to assistance for the countries of the South  
11 Caucasus and Central Asia).

12 (3) Section 661 of the Foreign Assistance Act  
13 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2421; relating to the Trade and  
14 Development Agency).

15 (4) The Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12  
16 U.S.C. 635 et seq.).

17 (5) Any other provision of law.

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