

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8012

To require the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations requiring a rail carrier to report certain damage if such carrier has a reasonable suspicion that an action carried out by the carrier caused such damage.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2026

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

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations requiring a rail carrier to report certain damage if such carrier has a reasonable suspicion that an action carried out by the carrier caused such damage.

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 “Helping Oversee and  
5       Ward off Infrastructure Emergencies Act” or the  
6       “HOWIE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STANDARD FOR REPORTING CERTAIN DAMAGE RE-**  
2 **LATING TO RAILROAD OPERATIONS.**

3       The Secretary of Transportation, acting through the  
4 Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration,  
5 shall issue such regulations as are necessary to update sec-  
6 tion 225.9 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, to re-  
7 quire a railroad to report a train accident resulting in  
8 damage described under such section, including any inci-  
9 dent that causes a fire (including a brush fire) alongside  
10 a railroad track, if such railroad has a reasonable sus-  
11 picion that an action carried out by the railroad caused  
12 such damage.

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