

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2461

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 28, 2006

Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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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 2006”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress makes the following findings:

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

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

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

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

20          (5) The exclusion of Armenia from regional eco-  
21          nomic and commercial undertakings in the South  
22          Caucasus undermines the United States policy goal  
23          of promoting a stable and cooperative environment  
24          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  
4       \$400,000,000 to \$800,000,000 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) The leading role of the Government of  
15       Azerbaijan in developing the proposed Baku-Tbilisi-  
16       Kars railroad and other similar actions by the Gov-  
17       ernment of Azerbaijan serve to undermine and avoid  
18       a just solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict  
19       and potentially destabilize the region.

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

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

1 related connections that do not traverse or connect with  
2 Armenia, and do traverse or connect Baku, Azerbaijan,  
3 Tbilisi, Georgia, and Kars, Turkey.

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

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

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

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

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

18 (5) Any other provision of law.

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