

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 693

To designate a rail right-of-way as a corridor for inter-suburban commuter rail, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 26, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM (for himself, Mr. MANZULLO, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. HALVORSON, and Ms. BEAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To designate a rail right-of-way as a corridor for inter-suburban commuter rail, 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. DESIGNATION OF CORRIDOR FOR INTER-SUB-**
4 **URBAN COMMUTER RAIL.**

5 (a) PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF CORRIDOR FOR
6 INTER-SUBURBAN COMMUTER RAIL AND REPORT.—Not
7 later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act
8 and before designating a rail right-of-way as a corridor
9 for inter-suburban commuter rail under subsection (c), the
10 Secretary of Transportation shall transmit a report to the

1 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
2 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
3 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that de-
4 scribes how the proposed corridor meets the qualifications
5 of subsection (c) and evaluates the potential benefits and
6 adverse effects, if any, of such a designation.

7 (b) REVIEW BY CONGRESS.—A proposed designation
8 of a rail right-of-way as a corridor for inter-suburban com-
9 muter rail under subsection (c) may not become effective
10 until the end of a 30-day period of continuous session of
11 Congress following the date of the transmittal of a report
12 on the designation under this subsection. For purposes of
13 the preceding sentence, continuity of a session of Congress
14 is broken only by an adjournment sine die, and there shall
15 be excluded from the computation of such 30-day period
16 any day during which either House of Congress is not in
17 session during an adjournment of more than 3 days to
18 a day certain.

19 (c) CORRIDOR DESIGNATION.—After the 30-day Con-
20 gressional review period under subsection (b), the Sec-
21 retary, using the qualifications described in this sub-
22 section, shall designate a rail right-of-way as a corridor
23 for inter-suburban commuter rail. In determining if a rail
24 right-of-way qualifies to be designated as a corridor for
25 inter-suburban commuter rail, the Secretary shall consider

1 the following factors for the 5 metropolitan areas in the
2 country with the highest population levels:

3 (1) The availability of existing rail infrastruc-
4 ture and plans for inter-suburban commuter rail.

5 (2) Rail projects that have in the past received
6 Federal authorization and appropriation.

7 (3) The potential number of individuals that
8 will be given an alternative to driving.

9 (4) The potential for reducing congestion.

10 (5) The potential of linking important economic
11 centers such as places of employment, retail centers,
12 educational centers, and civic centers.

13 (6) The potential for attracting new businesses
14 and economic development.

15 (7) Providing new inter-suburban commuter rail
16 service access.

17 (8) The availability of existing rail lines in a
18 traditional hub-and-spoke layout radiating from a
19 central urban area to connect with the corridor for
20 inter-suburban commuter rail.

21 (d) CORRIDOR SELECTION.—Once a rail right-of-way
22 is selected as a corridor for inter-suburban commuter rail
23 under this section, the Secretary shall—

1 (1) provide technical assistance in expediting
2 the completion of inter-suburban commuter rail serv-
3 ice; and

4 (2) as of the date of the designation of the cor-
5 ridor for inter-suburban commuter rail under this
6 section, prohibit increased usage of such corridor ex-
7 cept for the purpose of increasing the availability of
8 inter-suburban commuter rail.

9 (e) DEFINITION.—The term “inter-suburban com-
10 muter rail” means the provision of rail service between
11 cities, towns, and villages that comprise the suburbs of
12 a large city located in one of the 5 metropolitan areas in
13 the country with the highest population levels.

○