

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4397

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide for caches of emergency response equipment to be used in the event of an accident involving rail tank cars transporting hazardous material, crude oil, or flammable liquids.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2016

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

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide for caches of emergency response equipment to be used in the event of an accident involving rail tank cars transporting hazardous material, crude oil, or flammable liquids.

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 “Rail Safety Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PREPOSITIONING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE**
2 **EQUIPMENT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
4 enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal
5 Emergency Management Agency shall develop and prepo-
6 sition caches of emergency response equipment to facili-
7 tate the rapid deployment of resources needed to reduce
8 damage to life, property, and the environment in the event
9 of an accident involving rail tank cars transporting haz-
10 ardous material, crude oil, or flammable liquids.

11 (b) CONTENTS.—The caches described in subsection
12 (a) may include—

- 13 (1) firefighting equipment;
14 (2) fire suppression agents; and
15 (3) any other safety equipment considered nec-
16 essary by the Administrator to respond to railroad
17 accidents involving hazardous material, crude oil, or
18 flammable liquids.

19 (c) LOCATION.—The caches described in subsection
20 (a) shall be—

- 21 (1) located along rail routes over which a high
22 volume of high-hazard trains operate; and
23 (2) strategically prepositioned along such routes
24 in a manner that lowers the response time of fire-
25 fighters to—

1 (A) fight fires involving crude oil and other
2 flammable liquids; and

3 (B) prevent such fires from spreading.

4 (d) CONSULTATION.—In determining the contents of
5 the caches under subsection (b) and the location of the
6 caches under subsection (c), the Administrator shall con-
7 sult with the Secretary of Transportation, appropriate
8 State and local governments, railroad carriers, and local
9 first responders.

10 (e) FEE COLLECTION.—The Administrator may col-
11 lect fees from railroad carriers, as appropriate, to develop
12 and preposition the caches under subsection (a).

13 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
14 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
15 necessary to carry out this Act.

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