



SJ0044

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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Volumes of crude oil shipments have risen rapidly  
3 in the 2010s relative to previous decades; and

4 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)  
5 remains committed to transporting flammable liquids by all  
6 modes of transportation, including the nation's 140,000-mile  
7 freight railroad network that is often located near public  
8 areas such as neighborhoods and schools, endangering citizens  
9 by placing them unknowingly within blast and evacuations  
10 zones; and

11 WHEREAS, The rail transportation of large volumes of crude  
12 oil and other petroleum products presents unique safety risks;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Incidents such as the derailment in Lac-Megantic,  
15 Quebec, Canada, when a unit train carrying crude oil from the  
16 Bakken region of North Dakota killed 47 unsuspecting people  
17 and decimated most of the village, have resulted in  
18 significant and devastating loss of life and destruction of  
19 property and the environment; and

20 WHEREAS, The safe and successful management of any  
21 hazardous materials incident is based on effective

1 pre-incident planning, preparedness, training, exercises, and  
2 implementation of an incident management system; and

3 WHEREAS, The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety  
4 Administration (PHMSA), in consultation with the Federal  
5 Railroad Administration (FRA), issued a final rule to improve  
6 oil spill response readiness and mitigate effects of rail  
7 accidents and incidents involving petroleum oil and  
8 high-hazard flammable trains (HHFTs); and

9 WHEREAS, The intent of comprehensive oil spill response  
10 plans (COSRPs) requirements is to ensure that local emergency  
11 responders and emergency response planning officials have  
12 access to sufficient information regarding the movement of  
13 HHFTs in their jurisdictions to adequately plan and prepare  
14 for emergency events; and

15 WHEREAS, Government concern regarding the dissemination of  
16 "sensitive security information" should not surpass a parent's  
17 right to information necessary in allowing them to make  
18 decisions related to securing the safety of their child or the  
19 school faculty and staff's right to safe working conditions;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, In order for school personnel to manage a  
22 hazardous materials incident safely and successfully, they too

1 must take part in effective pre-incident planning,  
2 preparedness, training, exercises, and implementation of an  
3 incident management system; and

4 WHEREAS, Even without derailing, spilling, or exploding,  
5 doctors have warned that proximity to oil trains poses a  
6 serious health risk with increasing rates in cancer, asthma,  
7 and cardiovascular disease through exposure to particulate  
8 matter released as emissions from trains; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF  
11 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge local  
12 emergency response planning officials to partner with school  
13 districts in their region in order to disseminate information  
14 pertaining to safety threats related to the storage and  
15 transport of hazardous substances, including petroleum oil and  
16 HHFTs, to the parents of attending students, faculty and  
17 staff, and schools at risk of being negatively impacted by  
18 storage facilities and/or the transport of such hazardous  
19 materials; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we urge local emergency response planning  
21 officials to include school districts in their region in the  
22 development and implementation of oil spill response plans  
23 specific to incidents involving the storage and transport of

1 hazardous materials, including petroleum oil and HHFTs; and be  
2 it further

3 RESOLVED, That we urge Congress and the Federal Railroad  
4 Administration to find a way to better notify and protect  
5 communities as hazardous products move through a community;  
6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
8 delivered to all emergency response planning committees  
9 throughout the State, the President of the United States, the  
10 U.S. Senate Majority Leader, the U.S. Senate Minority Leader,  
11 the U.S. Speaker of the House, the U.S. House of  
12 Representatives Minority Leader, all members of the Illinois  
13 Congressional Delegation, and Federal Railroad Administration  
14 Administrator Amit Bose.