



ARC

*Alliance for
Rail Competition*

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Federal News Update December 20, 2007 Happy Holidays!

Congress Completes First Session of 110th Congress

Congress has completed its work for the year and has left for the holidays. Members will return to begin the second session of the 110th Congress on January 15, 2008.

The Railroad Competition and Service Improvement Act of 2007, which was introduced earlier this year in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, continued to pick up additional co-sponsors. Fifty-three members had co-sponsored the House version, and eleven had co-sponsored the Senate version at the time of this update. A complete list of co-sponsors is included on the second page.

While the list of co-sponsors in the House has continued to grow, we are yet to reach the 75 to 100 co-sponsors that Chairman Oberstar has publicly said he would need before bringing the bill up for a vote in the Transportation & Infrastructure committee. While members of Congress are in their districts for the Holiday recess, **we urge you to continue to communicate to them the importance of this legislation.** While many Congressmen who represent ARC members have already signed on, we still have a few to reach out to, and we will also need their help in securing their colleagues' support.

Rail Provision Included in Energy Legislation

An earlier amendment by Cong. Tammy Baldwin and Sen. Byron Dorgan was included in the final versions of the energy legislation, which was signed into law by President Bush on December 19. This provision would require the Department of Transportation and the Department of Energy to conduct a study of the competitive environment for moving an increasing amount of biofuels and examine whether there are legal authorities to prevent railroads from charging unreasonable rates where competitive environment is not present.

Senate Rejects Rail Study in Farm Bill, Issue to Be Resolved in Conference

A provision in the Senate Farm Bill, which would require a study of transportation issues facing the agriculture sector, was removed during the Senate consideration of the bill, at the request of Sen. Chambliss (R-GA), the Ranking Republican of the Senate Committee on Agriculture. The provision was originally included by Sen. Amy Klobuchar and Sen. Harkin, but an amendment by Sen. Chambliss, which would omit the study, was accepted by the full Senate last week, as part of a larger compromise to get the bill passed in the Senate.

Because the study provision was included in the House version of the Farm Bill by Cong. Tim Walz, the conference committee, which will work to craft the final version of the Farm Bill to send to the President, will have determine whether the study provision remains.

H.R. 2125: Co-Sponsors (53)

Rep. Oberstar, James [D, MN-08]*
Rep. Alexander, Rodney [R, LA-05]*
Rep. Andrews, Robert [D, NJ-01]
Rep. Baker, Richard H. [R, LA-06]*
Rep. Baldwin, Tammy [D, WI-02]
Rep. Berry, Marion [D, AR-01]*
Rep. Bonner, Jo [R, AL-01]
Rep. Boren, Dan [D, OK-02]
Rep. Boustany, Charles W. [R, LA-07]*
Rep. Braley, Bruce [D, IA-01]
Rep. Cubin, Barbara [R, WY-At Large]
Rep. Delahunt, William [D, MA-10]
Rep. Franks, Trent [R, AZ-02]*
Rep. Frelinghuysen, Rodney [R, NJ-11]
Rep. Garrett, Scott [R, NJ-05]
Rep. Grijalva, Raul M. [D, AZ-07]
Rep. Hare, Phil [D, IL-17]
Rep. Herseth Sandlin, Stephanie [D, SD-At Large]
Rep. Hinojosa, Ruben E. [D, TX-15]
Rep. Hirono, Mazie K. [D, HI-02]*
Rep. Holden, Tim [D, PA-17]
Rep. Holt, Rush D. [D, NJ-12]
Rep. Hooley, Darlene [D, OR-05]
Rep. Inglis, Bob [R, SC-04]
Rep. Jefferson, William J. [D, LA-02]
Rep. Jindal, Bobby [R, LA-01]
Rep. Kagen, Steve [D, WI-08]
Rep. Kind, Ron J. [D, WI-03]*
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D, MN-04]
Rep. McNulty, Michael R. [D, NY-21]
Rep. Melancon, Charlie [D, LA-03]
Rep. Miller, Brad [D, NC-13]
Rep. Mollohan, Alan B. [D, WV-01]
Rep. Murphy, Patrick J. [D, PA-08]
Rep. Musgrave, Marilyn [R, CO-04]
Rep. Obey, David R. [D, WI-07]
Rep. Paul, Ron [R, TX-14]
Rep. Perlmutter, Ed [D, CO-07]
Rep. Peterson, Collin [D, MN-07]
Rep. Poe, Ted [R, TX-02]
Rep. Pomeroy, Earl [ND-At Large]*
Rep. Ramstad, Jim [R, MN-03]
Rep. Rehberg, Dennis [R, MT-At Large]
Rep. Renzi, Rick [R, AZ-01]
Rep. Ross, Mike [D, AR-04]
Rep. Simpson, Mike [R, ID-02]*
Rep. Sires, Albio [D, NJ-13]
Rep. Snyder, Vic [D, AR-02]
Rep. Space, Zack [D, OH-18]
Rep. Towns, Edolphus [D, NY-10]
Rep. Udall, Mark [D, CO-02]
Rep. Walz, Timothy J. [D, MN-01]*
Rep. Wamp, Zach [R, TN-03]

S. 953: Co-Sponsors (11)

Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND)
Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD)
Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA)
Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT)
Sen. John Thune (R-SD)
Sen. David Vitter (R-LA)
Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT)
Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID)
Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID)