

Legislative Action is Needed to Preserve the Freight Rail Supply Industry and Maintain Critical Infrastructure during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Recent Bipartisan Congressional and Administrative Action for the Rail Industry

2013

President Obama released Presidential Policy Directive 21 (PPD-21) to ensure the security and integrity of critical infrastructure in the United States, explicitly including the freight rail industry.

2018

The Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act (FIRRMA) was signed into law. FIRRMA expands CFIUS' jurisdiction to specifically consider PPD-21 critical infrastructure sectors, including freight rail, when foreign investment reviews are undertaken.

2019

The Transit Infrastructure Vehicle Security Act (TIVSA) was signed into law as part of the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. TIVSA prevents American taxpayer dollars from being used by transit agencies to purchase rolling stock manufactured by Chinese state-owned-enterprises.

Congress and the Administration have repeatedly demonstrated their support for America's freight rail industry. Currently, the industry faces a growing national and economic security threat from infiltration and attempted domination by foreign state-owned enterprises. As a core part of our nation's critical infrastructure, a strong North American freight rail system and manufacturing base is vital for our national defense.

This short-term tax credit will incentivize businesses to invest private capital and protect middle class family-wage jobs that are clearly at risk during these unprecedented times. Modernization and upgrading of the freight railcar fleet supports our national defense and ensures we have the assets America needs for the future.

Freight rail is a crucial part of America's critical infrastructure as it safely and efficiently carries hazardous materials, military equipment, agriculture products, energy products and everyday goods. Now more than ever, it is imperative we ensure the survival of the North American freight railcar industry and its jobs.

Including the Freight RAILCAR Act in the American Jobs Act infrastructure recovery package will:

- Protect and preserve 65,000 American manufacturing jobs
- Invest in environmentally efficient railcars and upgrade the fleet
- Help the rail supply industry survive the economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic