



SUPPORT the Transportation of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) by Rail

ISSUE: Congress and the administration should support and encourage the transportation of LNG by rail to improve safety, enhance U.S. energy independence, and promote America's natural resources.

BACKGROUND: In June 2020, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) issued a final rule authorizing the transport of LNG by rail, in bulk, after an extensive public comment period and safety analysis. In 2021, PHMSA suspended this authorization and initiated a separate rulemaking process to further review any potential environmental or safety risks associated with the transport of LNG by rail.

Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) allow LNG to be transported by truck and barge, but PHMSA has placed a moratorium on the issuance of any special permits related to the movement of LNG by rail.

About LNG

- Liquefying natural gas is a way to move natural gas long distances when pipeline transport is not feasible. In its compact liquid form, **natural gas can be safely shipped** to terminals around the globe.
- The U.S. is the **largest exporter of LNG** in the world and our export capacity is rapidly expanding.
- Natural gas is the **cleanest fossil fuel** among leading power sources and emits 50 percent less CO₂ than coal.
- LNG is **not stored or transported under pressure and is not explosive**.

Why Support the Transport of LNG by Rail

- Transporting LNG by rail **improves safety and fuel efficiency**, and **decreases emissions** associated with transporting LNG compared to transportation by truck.
- Authorizing the transportation of LNG by rail **promotes U.S. energy independence** by increasing potential export capacity.
- Continued authorization of the transportation of LNG by rail promotes **harmonization in North America** by aligning U.S. practices with those of Canada and Mexico.

Rail is a Safe and Responsible Choice for Transporting LNG

- DOT-113 specification tank cars are specifically designed for the safe transportation of cryogenic materials like LNG and have a **strong safety record** in their more than five decades of service.
 - Moving LNG by rail is safer than moving it by truck, with the **truck hazmat incident rate being more than 13 times higher** than the rail incident rate.
 - Tank cars authorized for LNG transport are **specially designed** and enhanced with double-hull, vacuum-insulated shells designed to be more puncture-resistant than any other type of tank car.
 - Railroads use **advanced route analysis** to plan the safest and most secure routes for LNG and other hazmat shipments, taking into account factors such as population density, volume, and trip length.
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Relevant Legislation

- **H.R.2100 - Providing Americans with LNG Safely Act**
Prohibits the Department of Transportation (DOT) from issuing any regulation or order that (1) prohibits the transportation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) by rail, or (2) restricts the transportation of LNG by rail in DOT-113 tank cars.