



CONGRESSMAN
BRAD SCHNEIDER
Representing the 10th District of ILLINOIS

Press Release

(202) 225-4835 | (847) 383-4870

schneider.house.gov

For Immediate Release
Monday, August 24, 2020

Contact: Matt Fried
(202) 941-9386

Reps. Schneider, LaHood Announce Introduction of Bipartisan Legislation to Support U.S. Freight Railcar Manufacturing and Sustain Jobs

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Reps. Brad Schneider (D-IL-10) and Darin LaHood (R-IL-18) introduced bipartisan legislation that will incentivize investment in safer, greener freight railcar manufacturing in the United States. The legislation will retain American jobs through the pandemic and ensure the sustainability of the North American steel and rail components supply chain. Schneider and LaHood were joined by Reps. Dan Lipinski (D-IL-3) and Rick Crawford (R-AR-1), Chairman and Ranking Member of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee’s subcommittee on Rail, and by Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR-03), and Drew Ferguson (R-GA-3), both members of the Ways & Means Committee

The bill, known as the “Freight Rail Assistance and Investment to Launch Coronavirus-era Activity and Recovery Act” or the “Freight RAILCAR Act,” will offer tax credits to encourage the adoption of new, more efficient, environmentally-friendly freight railcars. The legislation comes as demand for new railcars has plummeted amid the COVID-19 pandemic and thousands of workers have been laid off in response to increasingly dire economic circumstances for the freight railcar manufacturing industry.

“Rail is integral to our state’s—and our nation’s—economy,” **said Rep. Brad Schneider.** “As this industry faces historic downturn amid the current economic uncertainty, our bipartisan legislation would help modernize its fleet while spurring economic demand, on top of environmental and public safety benefits.”

“The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting infrastructure across the country, including the railway supply industry which is vital to the freight rail system in central and west-central Illinois,” **said Rep. Darin LaHood.** “This bill will spur job growth in the freight rail manufacturing sector, creating opportunities to invest and innovate in the critical infrastructure of freight rail, and strengthen our transportation system as we work to recover from COVID-19. I am proud to join

my colleague from Illinois, Rep. Schneider, in the effort that will support thousands of manufacturing jobs in the United States.”

“The railway supply industry is an economic engine for my district and the Chicago region,” **said Rep. Lipinski.** “With so many people suffering at the moment, now’s the time for Congress to work to stimulate this critical industry. Too many essential goods and services — and tens of thousands of good paying manufacturing jobs are at stake. As Chair of the Rail Subcommittee I have proudly worked with members of both parties to protect American infrastructure and American jobs. This important legislation continues that fight.”

Addressing the issue of national security, **Rep. Rick Crawford said,** “In every area of our nation’s critical infrastructure systems, we have seen how foreign adversaries like China take advantage of vulnerabilities and seek to dominate market share through anticompetitive practices. We cannot let this happen, and with strong policy like the RAILCAR Act we can protect our national and economic security. As the Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Rail subcommittee, and representative of major freight railcar manufacturing facilities in Arkansas, I understand the needs of this critical sector, and this bill rightly calls for increased investment and modernization of the North American freight railcar fleet.”

“I am proud to work with my colleagues in Congress to support the RAILCAR Act. This bipartisan bill contains provisions that incentivize the removal of older freight railcars and recycle the materials back into the domestic production cycle,” **Rep. Drew Ferguson said.** “It is important we ensure the domestic manufacturing of freight railcars and future infrastructure projects in the United States.”

Regarding the environmental benefits, **Rep. Earl Blumenauer said,** “In the midst of a once-in-a-century global pandemic and economic downturn, it is more important than ever that policymakers develop solutions that are environmentally sustainable, create jobs in the United States and accelerate economic recovery. I want to thank Representative Schneider for introducing this important legislation that will ensure the strength of this industry.”

###