



The 2022 Freight RAILCAR Act: An environmental “game-changer”

The 2022 Freight RAILCAR Act leverages the freight railcar industry’s existing fuel efficiency to create a more modern and efficient North American freight railcar fleet

(Washington, D.C.) – Today, the Rail Security Alliance thanked U.S. Reps. Brad Schneider (D-IL-10) and Darin LaHood (R-IL-18) for introducing the 2022 *Freight RAILCAR Act* in a strong show of bipartisan support for one of the most vital cornerstones of our nation’s transportation sector. The bill was introduced with 29 original co-sponsors.

The *Freight RAILCAR Act*, [H.R. 7902](#), maximizes the sustainability of the North American freight railcar fleet by encouraging future investment that will lead to improvements in energy efficiency and modernization for years to come.

[Rail Security Alliance](#) Executive Director Erik Olson said, “*This bill is an environmental game-changer for the North American freight railcar manufacturing industry and the U.S. overall.*”

It supports the goals of striving toward greater clean energy and providing for tens of thousands of Americans who work in the domestic freight railcar manufacturing and supply industry.

“*We are grateful for the leadership and foresight of U.S. Reps. Schneider and LaHood, and their colleagues, for supporting the role that North American freight railcar manufacturers play in leading the way toward greater sustainability of our transportation and critical infrastructure industry,*” Olson added.

Because transport by freight rail is three to four times more fuel-efficient than other modes of transportation, the [Freight RAILCAR Act](#) goes the extra step of encouraging sustainable investments today, replacing obsolete freight railcars years before the end of their useful life, and delivering [environmental benefits](#) decades earlier.

Provisions of the bill

- Shifting just 10 percent more freight to rail would reduce GHG emissions by more than 17 million tons annually. That is the equivalent of removing 3.35 million cars from our highways or planting 260 million trees.
- Obsolete and aging freight railcars could be replaced over the next three years, making way for a more efficient fleet.
- New high-strength and lightweight materials, innovative designs, and advanced technologies mean lighter, more energy-efficient freight railcars. Modernized freight railcars carry greater loads (up to 110-tons versus 100-tons) and use less fuel. New freight railcars reduce GHG.
- If just one-third of the almost 300,000 outdated hopper cars were replaced by higher capacity railcars, this would save 4.3 million gallons of diesel fuel in the first year or close to 13 million gallons of fuel and 1.5 million tons of CO2 over 30 years, the average life span of a freight railcar.

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*Original sponsors/co-sponsors, May 30, 2022

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***About the Rail Security Alliance:** The Rail Security Alliance exists to support and encourage the adoption and enactment of U.S. policies, procedures and laws that are designed to promote the security of the railroads and the railroad system of the United States of America.*