

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8012

To require the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations requiring a rail carrier to report certain damage if such carrier has a reasonable suspicion that an action carried out by the carrier caused such damage.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2026

Mr. LAWLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations requiring a rail carrier to report certain damage if such carrier has a reasonable suspicion that an action carried out by the carrier caused such damage.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Helping Oversee and
5 Ward off Infrastructure Emergencies Act” or the
6 “HOWIE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STANDARD FOR REPORTING CERTAIN DAMAGE RE-**
2 **LATING TO RAILROAD OPERATIONS.**

3 The Secretary of Transportation, acting through the
4 Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration,
5 shall issue such regulations as are necessary to update sec-
6 tion 225.9 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, to re-
7 quire a railroad to report a train accident resulting in
8 damage described under such section, including any inci-
9 dent that causes a fire (including a brush fire) alongside
10 a railroad track, if such railroad has a reasonable sus-
11 picion that an action carried out by the railroad caused
12 such damage.

○