

HEIDI HEITKAMP
NORTH DAKOTA
HART SENATE BUILDING 502
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
PH: 202-224-2043
FAX: 202-224-7776
TOLL FREE: 1-800-223-4457

<http://www.heitkamp.senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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January 28, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I write to express my concerns regarding the delay in releasing the proposed rule on the transportation of crude oil by rail. While I understand this is a complicated rule that we absolutely must get right, it must be finalized as soon as possible to ensure safety for North Dakota's communities and certainty for industry.

As you are aware, North Dakota has experienced first-hand what happens when a train carrying crude oil derails and explodes. Just over a year ago, a train carrying crude oil derailed outside of Casselton and exploded. We were lucky no one was hurt and that the incident did not occur in a more populated area, but we cannot depend on luck.

I appreciate the hard work you and your staff have put in to rail safety since you visited North Dakota following the Casselton derailment, as well as the efforts you are making to finalize the crude-by-rail rule. I also recognize the efforts to harmonize standards with Canada so cross-border transportation is not hindered and industry has certainty regarding what tank cars are acceptable across both countries.

I urge you to work expeditiously to finalize a rule as soon as possible that increases safety for North Dakotans and provides workable guidance for industry.

Sincerely,



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate

BISMARCK OFFICE:
228 FEDERAL BUILDING
220 EAST ROSSER AVENUE
BISMARCK, ND 58501
PH: 701-258-4648
FAX: 701-258-1254

DICKINSON OFFICE:
40 1ST AVENUE WEST
SUITE 202
DICKINSON, ND 58601
PH: 701-225-0974
FAX: 701-225-3287

FARGO OFFICE:
306 FEDERAL BUILDING
657 SECOND AVENUE NORTH
FARGO, ND 58102
PH: 701-232-8030 - 1-800-223-4457
FAX: 701-232-6449

GRAND FORKS OFFICE:
33 S. 3RD ST., SUITE B
GRAND FORKS, ND 58201
PH: 701-775-9601
FAX: 701-746-1990

MINOT OFFICE:
105 FEDERAL BUILDING
100 FIRST STREET S.W.
MINOT, ND 58701
PH: 701-852-0703
FAX: 701-838-8196