



CONGRESSMAN GARY G. MILLER

PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA'S 42ND DISTRICT



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Congressman Miller Urges Full Funding for Positive Train Control

Capable of preventing train-to-train collisions, overspeed derailments, and other train accidents, Positive Train Control will enhance rail safety in Southern California

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Gary Miller and over twenty of his California colleagues urged House and Senate appropriators to maintain the level of funding contained in the Senate-passed version of H.R. 3288, the Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, for the development and installation of Positive Train Control (PTC) technology. PTC is a safety overlay system designed to prevent train-to-train collisions, overspeed derailments, and casualties or injuries to roadway workers, as well as other train accidents.

“Over a year ago, two trains collided in Chatsworth, California, tragically killing 25 people and injuring another 135 people,” said Congressman Miller. “Unfortunately, this crash may have been avoided or mitigated had a Positive Train Control system been in place. This technology has the capability to prevent collisions, speeding, and derailments, thereby saving lives and heartache from losing a loved one in a senseless crash.”

Following these tragic events, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, which mandated a large scale implementation of PTC on all rail main lines used to carry passengers or certain highly hazardous materials. While all the affected railroads are aggressively pursuing development of the PTC implementation plans, the likely cost of the mandate to the rail industry is currently estimated at a staggering \$10 billion. In response, the Senate-passed version of H.R. 3288 fully funds the \$50 million authorized in Fiscal Year 2010 for the Rail Safety Technology Grant Program, which is anticipated to be used primarily for the development and installation PTC technology.

“While this funding level is encouraging, if Congress is truly committed to the law it passed last year, significant additional public dollars will be needed to help meet this challenge,” added Congressman Miller. “If the rail industry must fully bear the cost of this mandate, it will likely come at the expense of capacity expansion and, potentially, other maintenance or safety technology expenditures. To prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future, it is critical House and Senate appropriators maintain funding in the Senate-passed version of the bill for Positive Train Control and expand on this in the future.”

The letter was led by Rep. Gary Miller and signed by Reps. Roybal-Allard, Gallegly, Schiff, Waxman, Berman, Chu, Filner, Baca, Richardson, Napolitano, Capps, Lofgren, Speier, Loretta Sanchez, Cummings, Sherman, Linda T. Sánchez, Honda, Harman, Schauer, and Watson.

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