

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3410

To require Surface Transportation Board consideration of the impacts of certain railroad transactions on local communities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2009

Ms. BEAN (for herself, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. ROSKAM, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. KIND, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. VISCLOSKY, and Mrs. HALVORSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To require Surface Transportation Board consideration of the impacts of certain railroad transactions on local communities, and for other purposes.

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 “Taking Responsible
5 Action for Community Safety Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EFFECT OF MERGERS ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES**
2 **AND RAIL PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION.**

3 Section 11324 of title 49, United States Code, is
4 amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) by striking the last sentence and in-
7 serting “The Board shall hold public hearings
8 on the proposed transaction, including public
9 hearings in the affected communities, unless the
10 Board determines that public hearings are not
11 necessary in the public interest.”;

12 (2) in subsection (b)—

13 (A) by striking “which involves the merger
14 or control of at least two Class I railroads,”
15 and inserting “with respect to a transaction
16 that involves at least one Class I railroad,”;

17 (B) by inserting “the effect on the public
18 interest, including” after “the Board shall con-
19 sider”;

20 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking “on the
21 public interest”;

22 (D) by striking “and” at the end of para-
23 graph (4);

24 (E) by striking the period at the end of
25 paragraph (5) and inserting a semicolon; and

1 (F) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraphs:

3 “(6) the safety and environmental effects of the
4 proposed transaction, including the effects on local
5 communities, such as public safety, grade crossing
6 safety, hazardous materials transportation safety,
7 emergency response time, noise, and socioeconomic
8 impacts; and

9 “(7) the effect of the proposed transaction on
10 intercity rail passenger transportation and commuter
11 rail passenger transportation, as defined by section
12 24102 of this title.”;

13 (3) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), (e),
14 and (f) as subsections (d), (e), (f), and (g) and in-
15 serting a new subsection (c) as follows:

16 “(c) The Board shall approve and authorize a trans-
17 action under this section when it finds the transaction is
18 consistent with the public interest. The Board shall not
19 approve a transaction described in subsection (b) if it finds
20 that the transaction’s impacts on safety and on all affected
21 communities, as defined under subsection (b), outweigh
22 the transportation benefits of the transaction. The Board
23 may impose conditions governing a transaction under this
24 section, including conditions to mitigate the effects of the
25 transaction on local communities.”;

1 (4) in subsection (d), as redesignated, by strik-
2 ing “The Board shall approve” and all that follows
3 through “the transaction, including” and inserting
4 “The conditions the Board may impose under this
5 section include”; and

6 (5) in subsection (e), as redesignated, by strik-
7 ing “the merger or control of at least two Class I
8 railroads, as defined by the Board” and inserting “a
9 transaction described in subsection (b)”.

10 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

11 The amendments made in this Act shall be applied
12 to all transactions that have not been approved by the
13 Board as of August 1, 2008.

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