



News from

# Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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## Rep. Ron Kind Statement on Crude by Rail Safety Final Rule

La Crosse, WI – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) applauded the long-awaited release of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) final crude by rail safety rule but is concerned that some of the provisions are not aggressive enough to ensure safe rail transport of the highly volatile Bakken crude oil.

**“While I am pleased that the DOT has finally released its tank car and rail safety rule and believe that it is a step forward, I am disappointed with much of it, including the omission of any requirement to make the oil less volatile before it’s shipped on our rails and the long timeline for phase-out of unsafe tank cars. We have seen the dangers posed by this extremely combustible oil being shipped on old tank cars, and our communities cannot wait any longer for appropriate safety measures to be implemented.”**

Western and central Wisconsin has seen exponential growth in the transportation of crude oil by rail. This past March, a train carrying Bakken crude oil derailed in Galena, Illinois after having passed just minutes earlier through Wisconsin. Many of the initial emergency responders on the scene were first responders from southwest Wisconsin. Rep. Kind has been a strong advocate for increased funding for our brave first responders to ensure they have the training and resources they need, and he introduced the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Act earlier this year to help local first responders in the event of a derailment.

Rep. Kind has been a vocal proponent for increased rail safety. Last month, he introduced the Crude-by-Rail Safety Act in Congress that would prohibit the use of unsafe DOT-111 tank cars for the transport of crude oil and would authorize funding for first responder training and emergency preparedness.

Rep. Kind has also sent several letters to DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx with safety measure recommendations, including a proposal that all crude oil be stabilized prior to shipment on railroads in order to reduce its volatility. He also sent a letter to President Obama earlier this year urging him to quickly release and implement the final tank car safety rule.

See the letter that Rep. Kind sent to the DOT asking Sec. Foxx to require oil stabilization prior to rail transport [here](#), as well as his letter containing tank car safety recommendations [here](#), and his letter to President Obama [here](#).