

Rep. Gus Bilirakis Lauds Passage of Bi-Partisan Rail Security Legislation

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Harbor),

a Member of the Homeland Security Committee, lauded the bi-partisan passage of H.R. 1401, the Rail and Public Transportation Security Act, which included two security provisions he authored. The legislation passed 299 to 124.

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introduced by Bilirakis

March, 28, 2007

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Among other things, this important homeland security
legislation would:

- Enhance
the security of our nation's rail, public transportation and over-the-road bus
carriers.
- Require
high and medium risk transportation systems to assess their vulnerabilities and
develop and implement security plans.
- Authorize
security grant programs, of 6.2 billion over the next four years, to be
distributed on the basis of risk, for rail, public transportation and
over-the-road bus systems, to make needed security improvements.

The bill the House approved yesterday includes two
provisions Rep. Bilirakis successfully inserted during the consideration of the
bill by the Homeland Security Committee. The provisions would:

- Require
the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to conduct physical testing of rail
cars to determine the most likely successful means of attack against them.
Currently, no real-world vulnerability testing has been done on the safety of
tank cars carrying dangerous toxic-by-inhalation hazardous materials.
- Require
the security coordinator positions required under the legislation to be filled

by U.S. citizens. This is the same as the requirement for individuals seeking security clearances for access to classified information and materials.

"I applaud my colleagues in the House for joining together to pass this bi-partisan homeland security legislation." Rep. Bilirakis said. "Our country lives under the constant threat of terrorism by people who despise freedom. It is important that this Congress continues to work together to pass common sense legislation that completely and accurately assesses and addresses security threats to this country's transportation infrastructure."

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