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Congress of the United States  
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Washington, DC 20515-3218

September 22, 2014

Cynthia L. Quarterman  
Administrator  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
East Building, 2nd Floor  
Mail Stop: E27-300  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Quarterman,

I write to express my deep concern about the lack of safety regulations for transporting crude oil by rail throughout the country, including New York and my district in the Hudson Valley. In the past year alone, three freight trains have derailed or caused accidents near the Hudson Valley. It is merely a matter of time before a tragedy, such as the recent derailment in Lynchburg, VA, occurs in my district's backyard. If immediate action is taken to eliminate the use of and raise the safety standards applicable to DOT-111 tank cars, PHMSA will lessen the disastrous consequences of accidents involving these trains.

With increased hydraulic fracturing in the Northeast, the production and transport by rail of crude oil through our region has skyrocketed. In fact, the number of train carloads carrying crude oil increased from about 9,500 in 2008 to roughly 400,000 in 2013. The Hudson Valley serves as a major artery for such transport, and current railcar standards are unacceptable if we are to protect the vitality and beauty of the Hudson Valley.

It is my hope that you will act to finalize the proposed regulations mandating that the currently inadequate DOT-111 tank cars be discontinued or retrofit to meet new, heightened safety standards. It is imperative that we act as soon as possible to reduce the serious risks associated with crude oil transportation by rail. This past year has demonstrated that these accidents happen frequently and without warning, and the safety of my neighbors and our environment is too important to wait.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress