

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4802

To require information on railroad tank cars containing hazardous materials to be available to first responders.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To require information on railroad tank cars containing hazardous materials to be available to first responders.

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 “Responsible Railroads  
5 Act of 2004”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS.**

7 Chapter 51 of title 49, United States Code, is amend-  
8 ed—

9 (1) in section 5111—

1 (A) by inserting “(a) AIR BRAKE EQUIP-  
2 MENT.—” before “A rail tank car”; and

3 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
4 subsection:

5 “(b) INFORMATION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS.—

6 “(1) PROHIBITION.—No rail tank car con-  
7 taining hazardous materials may be transported or  
8 stored on rail tracks that are part of or connected  
9 to the general system of railroad transportation un-  
10 less information identifying the tank car, the haz-  
11 ardous materials within such tank car, and response  
12 guidance is immediately available to local first re-  
13 sponders in each location where the tank car may be  
14 located. Such information shall be provided through  
15 the Operation Respond Institute’s technology or  
16 similar technology. Each day in which a tank car is  
17 transported or stored in violation of this paragraph  
18 shall constitute a separate violation.

19 “(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary of Transpor-  
20 tation may provide an exception to the prohibition  
21 under paragraph (1) if no data base exists through  
22 which the requirement can be met.”; and

23 (2) in section 5124, by adding at the end the  
24 following: “This section shall not apply to a violation

1 of section 5111(b) or a regulation prescribed or  
2 order issued under such subsection.”.

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

4 The amendments made by section 2 shall take effect  
5 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

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