

(April 26, 2006) Lipinski Addresses Importance of CREATE Program

Lipinski Addresses Importance of CREATE Program at Rail Hearing

Lipinski Touts CREATE Partnership as Rail Congestion Issues Mount

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, Congressman Dan Lipinski addressed the House Transportation Committee, Subcommittee on Railroads on the vital importance of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency program (CREATE) to the nation's freight rail system. The hearing was held to discuss rail capacity shortages and buildups along freight rail corridors in this country. In addition to Congressman Lipinski, Administrator Boardman from the Federal Railroad Administration and several key members of the rail industry were there to make remarks.

"It is critical that we find more ways to improve rail infrastructure and support the railroad industry's efforts to improve the movement of goods as well as the efficiency of passenger and freight travel," said Lipinski. "We must continue to provide federal support to programs and initiatives that innovatively address capacity shortage."

"The CREATE Program is a project of national importance and national significance that will do just that," explained Lipinski. "CREATE will completely overhaul the freight rail system by focusing on twenty-five new grade separations, updating signalization and control technologies, and six rail-to-rail flyovers that will separate freight and passenger rail lines," continued Lipinski.

The CREATE program is a \$1.5 billion, ten year plan that will make significant strides in reducing congestion by modernizing the antiquated northeastern Illinois rail network. By fixing the Chicago bottleneck, this landmark proposal will result in national benefits and set a standard for streamlining freight and passenger rail lines in this country.

"CREATE continues to move forward and I plan to see this project to fruition" said Lipinski. "This program is a dynamic, innovative approach to addressing the increasing capacity and congestion issues we face and will set the precedent in years to come."