

(July 24, 2007) Floor Statement in Support of Funding for Rail and Relocation Program

Floor Statement

During Debate of Fiscal Year 2008 Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development Appropriations bill

Mr. Chairman, I want to commend Chairman Olver, Ranking Member Knollenberg, Chairman Obey and the entire appropriations committee for their hard work in crafting this excellent bill. One key piece I want to focus on is the provision of \$35 million for the Rail Line Relocation and Improvement program, which was authorized by the SAFETEA-LU transportation bill but has not been funded up until now. Under this program, grants would be provided to a wide range of rail projects throughout the nation that would fill various critical rail needs including safety improvements, congestion mitigation, quiet zone creation, and the facilitation of local economic development.

For far too long our nation's rail infrastructure has gone without adequate investment and the needs continue to mount. By funding this program, we are taking an important step toward modernizing our nation's antiquated rail infrastructure and helping communities dependent on rail lines. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.