



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

AUG 16 2005

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Co-Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Inouye:

Enclosed is the U.S. Department of Transportation's report, "Safe Placement of Train Cars," as required by Section 111 of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Authorization Act of 1994. The report examines two related, but distinct, issues: the make-up of trains with respect to prevention of derailments and the safe placement of hazardous materials cars.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the railroad industry have supported research in the area of train make-up in controlling improper weight distribution for the last 20 years. Currently, FRA is developing a new modeling tool, which will permit a refined evaluation of the industry's performance in maintaining appropriate train make-up.

An identical letter has been sent to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and Chairman and Ranking Member of the House on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Y. Mineta', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Norman Y. Mineta

Enclosure



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

AUG 16 2005

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

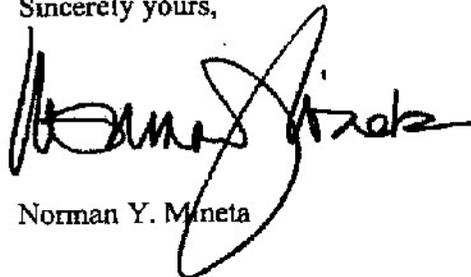
Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely yours,



Norman Y. Mineta

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590



AUG 16 2005

The Honorable Don Young
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Norman Y. Mineta

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THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

AUG 16 2005

The Honorable James L. Oberstar
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

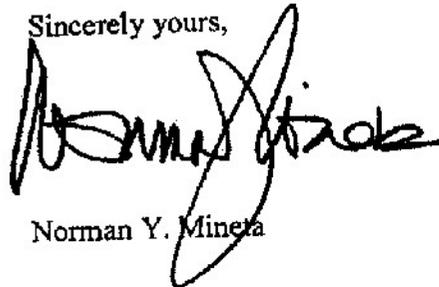
Dear Congressman Oberstar:

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Norman Y. Mineta

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