



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

SEP 22 2005

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney
President of the Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) March 2005 Report to Congress entitled, *Use of Dedicated Trains for Transportation of High-Level Radioactive Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel*. In Section 15 of the *Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act of 1990* (Public Law 101-615), the Secretary of Transportation was directed to study and provide a report comparing the safety of using "dedicated trains" exclusively for transporting high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel with the safety of using other methods of rail transportation for such purposes.

FRA's March 2005 Report to Congress concluded that dedicated train service offers the lowest accident probability and can reduce radiation exposure in the event of an accident by mitigating the consequences and simplifying wreck clearance.

FRA met with representatives of the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, pertinent sectors of the rail transportation industries, and State and Tribal organizations to obtain comments and information pertinent to the study. Over the next 18 months, FRA will explore, in detail, the costs associated with the use of dedicated trains and other special conditions of transportation. Upon completion of this review, FRA will determine which changes in the regulations governing transportation of these materials may be required.

An identical letter has been sent to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Norman Y. Mineta', is written over the typed name.

Norman Y. Mineta

Enclosure



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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

SEP 22 2005

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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