



Freight Rail Customer Alliance

Emergency Fuel Supply Coordination

FRCA Position

FRCA continues to support legislation that would prevent disruptions, uncertainties and delays in commodities – such as fuel, grains, and chemicals – reaching the market.

Issue Background

Our nation is continuing to fall victim to severe weather events which have impacted the ability of our nation's utilities to provide consistent, reliable fuel:

- February 2021 – The “Texas Freeze” resulted in rail carriers not able to operate due to no or lack of power.
- Winter of 2014 – Record harvests and severe cold weather, combined with the surge in transporting particularly Bakken crude oil – resulted in energy companies scrambling to provide service, farmers desperately trying to move their goods, and logjams for shipment of other commodities.

These scenarios were particularly difficult for those entities that rely heavily and/or are solely dependent upon shipping their products by rail.

In the 114th Congress legislation was introduced, the *Severe Fuel Supply Emergency Response Act of 2015*, that would have directed the Secretary of Energy to lead the response to coal fuel supply emergencies by:

- ✓ Promptly investigating the cause of the fuel shortage, and informing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Surface Transportation Board (STB) about the situation.
- ✓ Convening a meeting with relevant stakeholders, including FERC, STB, and the Electric Reliability Organization and affected Regional Entities and Reliability Coordinators.
- ✓ Making written, publicly available recommendations for actions that would help alleviate and prevent recurrences of the severe fuel supply emergency.

Status

No legislation has been introduced to date in the 117th Congress.