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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
RAILROADS, PIPELINES,
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY

May 1st, 2019

Congressman Lipinski Statement for the Record for Member Day

Thank you Chairman DeFazio for holding this important member day to get member's input on their infrastructure priorities. I appreciate the opportunity for T&I members to work with the Committee on their priorities. While I have many, I wanted to highlight one today, rail crossing safety and the Section 130 program. My Congressional district, Illinois' 3rd, has the most rail grade crossings of any district in the Country. I hear frequently from constituents and railroads about the need to improve the safety of our rail crossings. Indeed, in 2018, 270 people were killed and 819 people were injured in rail crossing incidents. That's why the Section 130 Grade Crossing Safety Program, which was enacted by Congress in 1987, is so important. Section 130 has been a successful 30 year effort to protect motorists and prevent grade crossing accidents. Because of the Section 130 program, fatalities and injuries have significantly decreased. However, we need to continue to make progress as one death is one too many.

As Chairman of the Rail, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee this Congress, I look forward to working with my colleagues on the subcommittee and full Committee to modernize the program in the next surface reauthorization so that States can use the latest technologies at grade crossings, provide meaningful incentives to localities to consolidate crossings and grade separate those crossings that provide mobility for first responders and reduce congestion associated with blocked crossings."

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