

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 3684
OFFERED BY MS. NEWMAN OF ILLINOIS**

At the end of title VI of division D of the bill, add
the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . RAIL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER**
2 **OF EXCELLENCE.**

3 Section 20108 of title 49, United States Code, is
4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(d) RAIL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER
6 OF EXCELLENCE.—

7 “(1) CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.—The Secretary
8 may provide a grant to an entity described in para-
9 graph (2) to establish a Center of Excellence to ad-
10 vance research and development that improves the
11 safety, efficiency, and reliability of passenger and
12 freight rail transportation.

13 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—An institution of higher
14 education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher
15 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) or a con-
16 sortium of nonprofit institutions of higher education
17 shall be eligible to receive a grant under this sub-
18 section.

1 “(3) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In awarding a
2 grant under this subsection, the Secretary may—

3 “(A) give preference to an applicant with
4 strong past performance related to rail re-
5 search, education, and workforce development
6 activities;

7 “(B) consider the extent to which the ap-
8 plicant would involve public passenger and pri-
9 vate and public freight railroad operators; and

10 “(C) consider the regional and national im-
11 pacts of the applicant’s proposal.

12 “(4) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts awarded under
13 this subsection may be used to establish and operate
14 the Center of Excellence described in paragraph (1)
15 and for research, evaluation, education, and work-
16 force development and training efforts related to
17 safety, environmental sustainability, and reliability
18 of rail transportation, including—

19 “(A) rolling stock;

20 “(B) positive train control;

21 “(C) human factors, systems design, or fa-
22 tigue;

23 “(D) rail infrastructure;

24 “(E) shared corridors;

25 “(F) grade crossings;

1 “(G) rail systems maintenance;

2 “(H) network resiliency;

3 “(I) programs to train railroad workers in
4 needed skills; and

5 “(J) the development of programs or part-
6 nerships to raise awareness of railroad employ-
7 ment opportunities, in coordination with the
8 Federal Railroad Administration.

9 “(5) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of
10 the cost of an activity carried out with a grant under
11 this subsection shall be 50 percent.”.

