

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7237

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to construct barriers near rail lines that are adjacent to a residential structure, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 2024

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to construct barriers near rail lines that are adjacent to a residential structure, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Homes
5 from Trains Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM TO CONSTRUCT BARRIERS NEAR**
2 **RAIL LINES ADJACENT TO A RESIDENTIAL**
3 **STRUCTURE.**

4 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after
5 the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary
6 of Transportation shall establish a program to provide
7 grants to eligible recipients to design or construct a bar-
8 rier to mitigate rail activity that may negatively impact
9 a residential structure or its use, including—

- 10 (1) damage caused by a train derailment;
11 (2) noise caused by a train; and
12 (3) vibrations caused by a train.

13 (b) **USE OF FUNDS.**—A grant provided under this
14 section may be used to design or construct a barrier lo-
15 cated—

- 16 (1) adjacent to a rail line; and
17 (2) between the rail line and any residential
18 area that—
19 (A) includes structures; and
20 (B) is affected, or potentially affected, by
21 any rail activity described in subsection (a).

22 (c) **ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.**—The Secretary may
23 make a grant under the program established in subsection
24 (a) to the following:

- 25 (1) A State.
26 (2) A group of States.

1 (3) An Interstate Compact.

2 (4) A public agency or publicly chartered au-
3 thority established by one or more States.

4 (5) A political subdivision of a State.

5 (6) Amtrak or another rail carrier that provides
6 intercity rail passenger transportation.

7 (7) A Class II railroad or Class III railroad or
8 a holding company of a Class II or Class III rail-
9 road, or an association representing a Class II or III
10 railroad.

11 (8) Any rail carrier in partnership with one or
12 more entities described in paragraphs (1) through
13 (5).

14 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under
15 the program established in subsection (a), an entity de-
16 scribed in subsection (c) shall submit to the Secretary an
17 application in such form, at such time, and containing
18 such information as the Secretary determines appropriate.

19 (e) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term
20 “State” means each of the several States, the District of
21 Columbia, and each commonwealth, territory, or posses-
22 sion of the United States.

23 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
24 authorized to be appropriated to carry out the program

1 established in subsection (a) \$100,000,000 for each of fis-
2 cal years 2025 through 2029.

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