



DU PAGE COUNTY

Legislative Committee

Regular Meeting Agenda

421 N. COUNTY FARM ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187
www.dupagecounty.gov

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

11:30 AM

Room 3500B

****11:30 AM or Immediately Following County Board****

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - 3.A. [23-1589](#)
Legislative Minutes - Regular Meeting - Tuesday, March 14, 2023
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. CHAIR'S REMARKS - CHAIR DESART
6. DISCUSSION
 - 6.A. [23-1609](#)
Overview of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and member benefits – Brian Namey, Chief Public Affairs Officer, NACo
7. ACTION ITEMS
 - 7.A. [LEG-R-0036-23](#)
Amendment to Resolution LEG-R-0035-23 Amending the County's 2023 Federal Legislative Program
S. 576, the Railway Safety Act
H.R. 1674, the DERAILED Act
H.R. 1633, the RAIL Act
 - 7.B. [LEG-R-0037-23](#)
Amendment to Resolution LEG-R-0034-23 Amending the County's 2023 State Legislative Program - Gun Storage Safety Bills
8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
10. ADJOURNMENT



Minutes

421 N. COUNTY FARM
ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187
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File #: 23-1589

Agenda Date: 4/25/2023

Agenda #: 3.A.



DU PAGE COUNTY

Legislative Committee

Final Summary

421 N. COUNTY FARM ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187
www.dupagecounty.gov

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

11:30 AM

Room 3500B

**** 11:30 AM or Immediately Following County Board Meeting ****

*****11:30 AM OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING COUNTY BOARD MEETING*****

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chair Dawn DeSart at 11:55 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

Staff present: Sheryl Markay (Chief Policy & Program Officer), Jason Blumenthal (Policy & Program Manager), Conor McCarthy (State Attorneys Office), Mary Keating (Director of Community Services) Joining via Zoom: Laura Flamion (Animal Services, Operations Manager)

Additional Board Members Present: Yeena Yoo, Paula Deacon Garcia

Guest via Zoom: Joe McCoy, Executive Director, Illinois State Association of Counties

Member Chaplin was late due to being held after the previous meeting.

PRESENT	Childress, DeSart, Eckhoff, and Zay
ABSENT	Galassi
LATE	Chaplin

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A. [23-1071](#)

Legislative Minutes - Regular Meeting - Tuesday, February 21, 2023

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Dawn DeSart
SECONDER:	Michael Childress

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were offered.

5. CHAIR'S REMARKS - CHAIR DESART

Chair DeSart gave very high praise and thanks to Sheryl Markay for her extensive work reading, distilling, tracking and prioritizing the over 6,500 bills that were filed to create the DuPage County Summary Bill List.

6. DISCUSSION

6.A. Overview of the Spring Legislative Session – Joe McCoy, Executive Director, Illinois State Association of Counties

Joe McCoy provided an overview of the spring legislative session. He remarked that ISACo is tracking 900 bills that can be tracked on their website. Seventeen (17) of the bills they are supporting are also on the county's bill list. Mr. McCoy also encouraged DuPage to become more involved in NACo, mentioning that Mary Keating was a board member of NACo. Chair DeSart informed the committee that Chair Deborah Conroy recently named Member Sheila Rutledge as the county's NACo Representative. Mr. McCoy answered the committee's questions regarding shell bills and other bills that ISACo is tracking. Member Grant Eckhoff noted that he is concerned how quickly the shell bills can change.

7. ACTION ITEMS

7.A. [23-1073](#)

Action Item - Key Bill List 3-14-2023

Sheryl Markay explained the process used when reviewing the 6500 bills filed to determine the bill list. Using the DuPage 2023 State Legislative Program, she followed the 10 legislative priorities for 2023 that the County Board adopted on Jan. 24, 2023 to guide the selection of twenty-five (25) bills to support and two (2) bills to oppose. Mrs. Markay responded to questions.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Dawn DeSart
SECONDER:	Liz Chaplin
AYES:	Chaplin, Childress, and DeSart
NAY:	Eckhoff, and Zay
ABSENT:	Galassi

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.A. Motion to Reconsider Approval of the February 21, 2023 Minutes

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Jim Zay
SECONDER:	Dawn DeSart

8.B. Motion to Amend the February 21, 2023 Minutes

Member Zay motioned to amend the February 21, 2023 minutes to reflect that he and Member Chaplin were absent from that meeting due to the extended Transportation Committee meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Jim Zay
SECONDER:	Dawn DeSart

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 PM.



Discussion

421 N. COUNTY FARM
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WHEATON, IL 60187
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File #: 23-1609

Agenda Date: 4/25/2023

Agenda #: 6.A.

National Association of Counties 2023

FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES



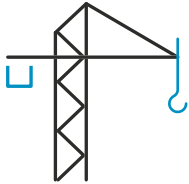
Counties play an instrumental role in the overall public administration and governance of federal, state and local policies, programs and services.



Counties own and operate **45 percent** of America's roads and **38 percent** of bridges



78 percent of public transit agencies are county supported



Counties invest **\$134 billion** in infrastructure and maintaining and operating public works



Counties support and operate nearly **1,000** hospitals, over **800** long-term care facilities, **750** behavioral health centers and **1,900** public health departments



County governments operates **2,875** of our nation's **3,160** local jails

America's 3,069 county governments provide essential building blocks for healthy, safe and vibrant communities. Counties invest over \$600 billion each year in taxpayer resources through the leadership of nearly 40,000 county elected officials and almost 3.6 million county employees. Counties support and maintain key public and community infrastructure, help nurture and sustain a skilled workforce to support dynamic local economies, and promote public health and safety to protect our citizens.

NACo supports federal policies and programs that equip county governments with the resources and flexibility needed to effectively serve our residents. NACo works to preserve local decision making and protect counties from unfunded mandates and preemption of local authority. Since counties implement many federal programs at the local level and must enforce many federal regulations, NACo encourages meaningful intergovernmental consultation with counties throughout all federal policy, program and regulatory development processes.

NACo policy positions are introduced, debated and voted on by 10 policy steering committees with over 1,400 county officials, as well as NACo Board of Directors and full membership.

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(Left to right) NACo President Denise Winfrey, Senator John Hickenlooper, Senator John Cornyn, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and NACo Immediate Past President Larry Johnson strengthen our intergovernmental system by engaging with key county partners.

Restore the Balance of Federalism and Optimize Intergovernmental Partnerships

County governments are instrumental partners in our nation's intergovernmental system, which balances, divides and shares power and responsibilities between all levels of government. Uniquely positioned to implement and administer policies and investments at the local level, NACo supports meaningful and consistent engagement between intergovernmental partners, and efforts that recognize and respect the unique roles and responsibilities of counties. Counties support the reintroduction and passage of the Restore the Partnership Act and the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act to

reduce the regulatory burden of unfunded federal mandates on the public, increase transparency, foster intergovernmental dialogue and unite all levels of government in supporting our system of federalism. NACo applauds the passage of legislation such as the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the CHIPS and Science Act that designated funds directly to county governments, and will continue to advocate for further legislation that unites all levels of government in supporting our unparalleled system of federalism.

*Counties invest over **\$600 billion** each year in taxpayer resources, through the leadership of nearly **40,000 county elected officials** and **3.6 million county employees***

Seize Legislative Opportunities to Improve the Implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Recovery Fund), part of ARPA, allocated \$65.1 billion in direct, flexible aid to every county, parish and borough in the country. Throughout the pandemic and recovery from it, counties have invested these funds in public health response efforts, addressed negative economic impacts, increased essential worker pay, and had the opportunity to allocate their Recovery Funds to where their community needed them most. Counties support legislation and/or regulatory changes that provide additional flexibility for Fiscal Recovery Fund investments in order for county elected officials to choose how to best utilize their funds for both local and national recovery. We are pleased to have helped with the passage of the bipartisan State, Local Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal

Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act as part of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 omnibus appropriations bill, which will grant counties additional flexibility when distributing their Recovery Funds. NACo will continue to fiercely advocate for maximum flexibility as the U.S. Department of Treasury begins to make clarifications to the Recovery Fund Final Rule with the recent passage of this legislation.



*As of June 30, 2022, **large cities and counties** (>250,000 in population) have spent **\$15 billion** in SLFRF dollars—nearly one-quarter of their **\$65 billion** allocation*



*As sound financial stewards, counties are investing these critical Recovery Funds to **ensure the health and well-being of our nation's residents, support economic recovery and make transformational investments** in a better future*

Past President of NACo, and Boone County, Ky. Judge Gary Moore testifies before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform to highlight critical investments counties have made using State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Successfully Implement and Execute the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act and the CHIPS and Science Act

NACo supports legislation that recognizes counties as essential intergovernmental partners through long-term, direct investments in local governments. As owners and operators of a vast amount of the nation's infrastructure, effective implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) will require meaningful and ongoing engagement between officials at all levels of government. Competitive programs that counties are eligible to directly apply for in the BIL must also be fully funded at their authorized levels in the annual appropriations process to ensure successful implementation.

Environmental stewardship is another primary function of county governments to create healthy, safe and vibrant communities for our residents. Counties support the opportunity to pursue clean energy initiatives and reduce emissions through new competitive grant programs, and a direct pay option in lieu of clean energy tax credits in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Furthermore, counties seek to revitalize their economies and foster innovation through the implementation of the RECOMPETE Pilot and Regional Tech Hubs programs in the CHIPS and Science Act. The RECOMPETE and Regional Tech Hubs programs must be fully funded at their authorized levels in FY 2024 and beyond.

Counties own and operate **45 percent** of all public roads



Counties own almost **38 percent** of the National Bridge Inventory



Counties are directly involved in **40 percent** of all public transportation systems



Counties are directly involved in **34 percent** of public airports



*Counties invest **\$134 billion annually** in building, maintaining and operating physical infrastructure and public works, including **transportation, water systems, ports, dams, hospitals, schools, libraries and courthouses***

Promote Health Equity by Reforming the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy and through Mental Health, Substance Use Treatment Legislation and Other Criminal Justice Reforms

NACo supports legislation and administrative changes that will enhance counties' ability to provide comprehensive behavioral health services. Counties support federal funding for existing mental and behavioral health services through enhancements to programs like the Community Mental Health Services block grant and the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment block grant. County officials support the protection of the federal-state-local partnership structure for financing and delivering Medicaid services while maximizing flexibility to support local systems of care and improving healthcare access. Counties oppose "off-setting" funding through the reduction or elimination of other public health programs and support protecting the Public Health Prevention Fund, the only funding stream intended to be used at the local level for the public's health, from elimination or further cuts.

Furthermore, NACo supports prioritizing improving health outcomes for justice-involved individuals through legislative action to improve the federal, state and local partnership in providing safety-net services to pretrial incarcerated individuals that are currently denied access to federal benefits per the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy (MIEP). Counties applaud the inclusion of MIEP reforms in the recently passed FY 2023 omnibus appropriations bill, which, as a result of NACo advocacy, authorized a state option to continue access to Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program benefits for juveniles awaiting trial and juveniles reentering their communities. Counties support policies that will further amend the MIEP to ensure continuity of access to federal health benefits for pretrial adults, and authorize the restoration of federal health benefits for adults reentering their community.

Counties also applaud the expansion of eligible uses for Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) funds in the JMHCP Reauthorization Act of 2022 passed last year, and urge Congress to fully fund the program at its authorized level in FY 2024. Counties support the use of JMHCP funds to decrease mental illness in jails by facilitating cross-system collaboration for individuals with mental illnesses who come into contact with the justice system.



Counties own and support **903 hospitals** and operate **1,943 local health departments**



America's counties annually invest **over \$148 billion in community health systems and justice and public safety services**



Counties operate **91 percent of local jails** with **over 8 million admissions** each year



At least **20 percent of jail inmates** have a serious mental illness

Secure the Inclusion of County Priorities in Farm Bill Reauthorization Legislation



*As the front line of the social safety net, counties are also responsible for administering SNAP in **ten states** representing **32 percent** of total participants*

NACo will continue to advocate for the inclusion of key county priorities, with an emphasis on rural development, in the creation of the 2023 Farm Bill. Counties support full funding for all Farm Bill titles, which help strengthen rural infrastructure including broadband and water and wastewater systems, support rural development initiatives coordinated with local officials, protect our nation's food supply, increase access to healthy food for low-income populations through the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), and promote environmental stewardship and conservation.

For the 70 percent of America's counties, parishes and boroughs considered rural, these titles represent significant opportunities to address acute issues unique to rural America. Furthermore, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development office operates a broad range of grant and loan programs that are also critical to rural counties. Counties support preserving USDA Rural Development program funding, streamlining the grant and loan application process, and urge Congress and the Administration to oppose further cuts to these programs and agency staff in FY 2024.

Boost Advanced Broadband Deployment and Accessibility While Preserving Local Decision-Making

County officials play a crucial role in pursuing sustainable broadband access, affordability and reliability solutions. Counties support policies to attract broadband service, boost enrollment in federal broadband affordability programs, and promote interoperability efforts to bridge the digital divide. NACo strives to preserve the local authority of county governments and supports the removal of state-imposed bans and restrictions that stop counties from making investments in local broadband networks. As an essential intergovernmental partner, counties must be included as primary stakeholders in helping the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) update its new National Broadband Map, a comprehensive, location-by-location view of high-speed Internet availability across the nation. Furthermore, strengthening local cybersecurity systems is critical to ensure that citizen's personal information and critical infrastructure are adequately protected, recoverable, and secured in the event of any potential breach. Counties support direct federal funding grants that bolster cybersecurity infrastructure at the local level, participation in the implementation of the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program authorized under the BIL, and the adoption of a National Cybersecurity Strategy that includes a consistent funding mechanism for securing local government IT and information systems.



With help from counties, over **15 million** households are now enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) since its inception in January 2021, which is approximately 30 percent of eligible households.



Less than **40 percent** of locations in the country have access to fiber-based high-speed internet, measured at 100/20 Mbps, with the problem exacerbated in rural and hard-to-build regions.



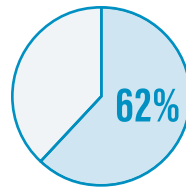
*Counties have dedicated over **\$450 million to broadband infrastructure projects through the American Rescue Plan Act's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program***

NACo Immediate Past President Larry Johnson; Palm Beach County, Fla. Mayor Gregg Weiss; Montgomery County, Md. Councilmember Craig Rice; and Stearns County, Minn. Commissioner Tarryl Clark attend a White House event to advocate for increased access to affordable high-speed internet in our nation's underserved communities.

Support Full Funding for Payments in Lieu of Taxes and the Secure Rural Schools Program

Counties support maintaining long-term full funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, which compensates public lands counties for untaxable federal land. Without predictable mandatory funding, PILT will remain a discretionary program subject to the annual appropriations process. Counties urge the administration and members of Congress to support long-term, predictable full funding for PILT in FY 2024, and modifying the program to make PILT payments to counties with smaller populations more equitable.

Counties also support extending the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program as a transitional funding mechanism until the federal government fully implements a sustainable, long-term forest management program with adequate revenue sharing for forest counties and schools. NACo supports legislation such as the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2021 that provides forest revenue-sharing payments to counties, and promotes active natural resource management.



Sixty-two percent of counties have federal land within their boundaries, and unlike other local property owners, the federal government does not pay traditional property taxes

NACo will continue to urge leadership in both chambers and on both sides of the aisle to work together to enact a long-term, sustainable solution.

Furthermore, counties support legislation and policies which would ensure federal land management agencies aggressively reduce the level of excessive fuel loading on a landscape scale. Counties support legislation for financing the suppression of catastrophic wildland fires without borrowing from other agency accounts for active management for forest and rangeland health and post-fire restoration and mitigation. Counties oppose any attempt to shift the costs of wildland fire suppression from federal agencies to counties.



Clackamas County, Ore. Commissioner Martha Schrader tells Senator Merkley why mandatory, full funding for PILT is important to counties.

Promote County Priorities and Local Decision-Making in Future U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Other Federal Rulemaking

As owners and operators of public safety water conveyances, stormwater municipal separate sewer systems (MS4), green infrastructure construction and maintenance projects, water reuse and infrastructure, and emergency management readiness, the final definition of the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule has a direct impact on counties. Counties urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to administer the recently finalized WOTUS rule in a way that appreciates counties' role as owners and operators of key public safety and water infrastructure, and as an intergovernmental partner in implementing federal regulations under the Clean Water Act. As the agency begins work on

its second WOTUS rule, counties further urge EPA to consult closely with local governments throughout the rulemaking process. Furthermore, counties support preserving the long-standing partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and state and local governments for funding, implementing and maintaining essential and environmentally sound navigation and other environmental improvement projects across the country. Additionally, counties support federal matching funds for local governments to implement projects authorized under the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and urge Congress to appropriate the funds needed to reduce the backlog of projects.



*On average, more than **two-thirds** of public spending for capital investment in water infrastructure since the 1980s has been made by **state and local governments***

DeKalb County, Ga. officials, including NACo Immediate Past President Larry Johnson (left), and EPA Assistant Administrator Radhika Fox (center), welcome new water infrastructure investments.

Maintain Election Integrity and Strengthen Safety for Election Workers

In the United States, the nation's 3,069 counties traditionally administer and fund elections at the local level, including overseeing polling places and coordinating poll workers for federal, state and local elections. County election officials work diligently with federal, state and other local election officials to ensure the safety and security of our voting systems. County election officials administer elections in a way that is accurate, safe, secure and accessible for all voters. Counties oppose legislation that imposes impractical requirements on the election process that adversely affect the conduct of state and local elections. Additionally, counties support legislation requiring federal entities to work with local governments to increase cybersecurity in elections and allocates funding directly to counties.

Finally, in recent years, the widespread circulation of misinformation and disinformation surrounding the administration of elections has led to a series of new challenges election officials must address, including the increase of targeted threats and harassment toward election officials. NACo urges Congress to enact legislation that will impose appropriate penalties for offenses related to harassing or intimidating election officials in the performance of their duty.



Weber County, Utah County Clerk/Auditor Ricky Hatch testifies before the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on the county role in ensuring election safety and integrity.



*More than **201 million people** were registered to vote in the 2022 mid-term election within jurisdictions where counties play a major role in administering and coordinating elections*



*Between the 2018 and 2020 general elections, county jurisdictions processed **over 94 million** registration forms*



*Counties administer elections through the funding and management of over **100,000 polling places** staffed with over **630,000 poll workers** each election cycle*

Enhance Community Resilience Through Regional and Local Disaster Preparedness

Counties engage in all aspects of emergency management including planning, preparation, mitigation, response and recovery. As the regularity and costs of disasters increase, counties urge Congress and the administration to provide increased federal resources to counties so they can continue to protect our residents, property, infrastructure systems and local economies.

Counties support a long-term reauthorization and reform of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to improve affordability, mitigation assistance, flood risk mapping and program administration. The program aims to reduce the impact of flooding on private and public structures by providing affordable insurance to property owners, and by encouraging communities to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations. Furthermore, counties support increased funding for the Emergency Management Grant Program and other mitigation grants to support local hazard mitigation and preparedness.

Last year, Congress passed an amendment as part of the FY 2023 omnibus appropriations package to allow for certain disaster-related spending eligible for ARPA Recovery Funds. NACo urges the U.S. Department of Treasury to allow counties maximum flexibility when using these funds for mitigation efforts and emergency relief from natural disasters as they begin to implement changes to the final rule.



*On average, over **800 counties** per year experience a presidentially declared disaster*



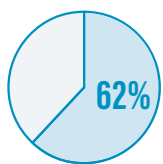
Mecklenburg County, N.C. Commissioner George Dunlap testifies before the House Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery on the county role in supporting resiliency and disaster preparedness.

*In 2022, the nation experienced **18 separate billion-dollar disasters** which totaled approximately **\$165 billion** in damages*

Promote Workforce Opportunities and Supportive Services for County Residents to Support Economic Recovery



Miami-Dade County, Fla. Commissioner Eileen Higgins testifies before the U.S. House Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth regarding utilizing infrastructure dollars to promote workforce opportunities and long-term prosperity.



Nearly **62 percent** of counties have poverty rates exceeding the national average

Counties are key players in crafting long-term economic development strategies, implementing local policies that support labor market recovery, and facilitating public-private partnerships that foster innovation. NACo supports federal programs and investments that help counties address their unique local economic challenges, close their prime-age employment gaps, increase per capita income and create sustained economic opportunity. Counties support increased

funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) that assists urban, suburban and rural communities in improving housing and living conditions and expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons. CDBG helps create jobs by expanding and retaining businesses and is an essential tool for helping local governments tackle serious challenges facing our communities. Counties also support reauthorization legislation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that preserves local governance authority, while promoting innovation and flexibility to respond to local emerging economic realities and business needs.

Government Affairs Staff Contacts

Mark Ritacco

Chief Government Affairs Officer
202.942.4272 • mritacco@naco.org

Eryn Hurley

Director of Government Affairs & Federal
Fellowship Initiative
202.942.4204 • ehurley@naco.org

Blaire Bryant

Legislative Director | Health • Large Urban
County Caucus
202.942.4246 • bbryant@naco.org

Jessica Jennings

Legislative Director | Transportation • Rural
Action Caucus
202.942.4264 • jjennings@naco.org

Rachel Mackey

Legislative Director | Human Services &
Education • Veterans & Military Services
202.661.8843 • rmackey@naco.org

Michael Matthews

Legislative Director | Community, Economic &
Workforce Development
202.942.4236 • mmatthews@naco.org

Brett Mattson

Legislative Director | Justice & Public Safety •
Gulf Coast Counties & Parishes Coalition
202.942.4234 • bmattson@naco.org

Jonathan Shuffield

Legislative Director | Public Lands • Western
Interstate Region
512.965.7268 • jshuffield@naco.org

Seamus Dowdall

Associate Legislative Director | Telecommunications
& Technology
202.942.4212 • sdowdall@naco.org

Sarah Gimont

Associate Legislative Director | Environment,
Energy & Land Use
202.942.4254 • sgimont@naco.org

Paige Mellerio

Associate Legislative Director | Finance, Pensions
& Intergovernmental Affairs
202.942.4272 • pmellerio@naco.org

Julia Cortina

Legislative Associate | Immigration Reform
Task Force
203.402.9494 • jcortina@naco.org

Owen Hart

Legislative Assistant | Agriculture and Rural Affairs
202.942.4280 • ohart@naco.org

Brayden Cohen

Legislative Assistant
202.942.4259 • bcohen@naco.org

Maxx Silvan

Legislative Assistant
202.942.4224 • msilvan@naco.org

Zachary Spencer

Legislative Assistant
202.942.4284 • zspencer@naco.org



660 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 400 • Washington, D.C. 20001
202.393.6226 • www.NACo.org

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[WWW.NACo.ORG/LINKEDIN](https://www.linkedin.com/company/naco) 



My County.

My NACo.



Make the Most of Your NACo Membership.

ACCESS | ENGAGE | NETWORK | SAVE | SUCCEED



ACCESS.

Member Benefit #1: Exclusive Access.



Access through advocacy

You have a unified, non-partisan seat at the table in Washington D.C. to fight unfunded mandates and unnecessary regulations. Your personal engagement can help secure federal policy and resources that support your county and your residents.



Access experts

Thanks to the collective impact of NACo members, counties regularly hear from and often speak directly with experts on issues like economic development, broadband, criminal justice, public safety and other timely, relevant issues that impact our communities.



Access curated, county-relevant data

NACo's County Explorer online interactive tool aggregates more than 800 data points on counties, parishes and boroughs, helping you tell the county story, support projects and grant proposals, and build credibility with key stakeholders.



As a NACo member, we have the ability to directly influence national policy discussions through NACo's efforts in Washington.

- Hon. Matt Veitch, Supervisor, Saratoga County, N.Y.



Only through NACo have I been able to sit down one-on-one with Arkansas' congressional delegation to discuss the issues our counties face and to brainstorm possible solutions.

- Hon. Debbie Wise, County Circuit Clerk, Randolph County, Ark.



I feel that NACo is like a fine-tuned instrument. Help is just a phone call or email away. I get the response, the research, the attention that I need for making changes on the ground.

- Hon. Toni Carter, Commissioner, Ramsey County, Minn.

NACo membership amplifies your voice and helps you make informed decisions.

Our goal is to strengthen America's counties and help our members achieve personal and professional success.

For more information about any of our advocacy efforts, services and benefits:
visit [NACo.org/advocacy](https://naco.org/advocacy) | email membership@naco.org | call 888.407.NACo (6226)

ENGAGE.

Member Benefit #2: Multiple ways to engage.



Engage with other members

The challenges you face are challenges other members are dealing with. Exchange best and promising practices so you, and they, aren't re-inventing the wheel for every issue.



Engage in important conversations

With over 30 member-led committees, task forces, caucuses and advisory boards you can help drive national policy and solve issues for counties, parishes and boroughs throughout the country – including your own.



Help your team be more engaged

County-focused professional development opportunities like our High Performance Leadership Academy, Enterprise Cybersecurity Leadership Academy, free webinars and the County Leadership Institute help you and your entire county staff gain the skills and knowledge needed to lead a county in the 21st century.

When you engage, you give and you get – usable solutions, stronger communities, better leaders. Our goal is to strengthen America's counties and help our members achieve personal and professional success.

For more information about any of our programs, services and benefits:
visit naco.org/events | email membership@naco.org | call 888.407.NACo (6226)



NACo provides an opportunity for counties to work together to handle issues faced by counties every day. We are stronger together than apart.

- Nick Crossley, Director of Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency, Hamilton County, Ohio



The smallest counties can have representation in NACo committees, same as the largest counties.

- Hon. Melissa Cribbins, Commissioner, Coos County, Ore.



The High Performance Leadership Academy was one of the best things I did in 2020! It encouraged me personally and professionally, so much that I'm having my entire staff take the class. It empowers everyone to be the best leader they can be, giving you the tools to be that leader.

- Hon. Jason Carini, Treasurer, Rogers County, Okla.

NETWORK.

Member Benefit #3: A nationwide network.



Network with people who know how things work

Member counties range in size from 418 residents to nearly 10 million residents and face rural, suburban and urban challenges every day. Connect with peers who know what it's like to be in your shoes, who you can talk to for real-world answers, not theories or guesses.



Add NACo staff, and their extensive networks, to yours

It isn't just other members you can reach out to. Every member of the NACo staff is here to help connect you to leaders, experts and the right people in government, the private sector and allied organizations.



Networking opportunities are everywhere

From conferences to committees to video calls and meetings, there are many opportunities to meet and connect with new people dealing with similar issues that you're facing. And it isn't all business. Important friendships are made too!



The chairman of our subcommittee let us know about available funding. I applied and received a grant to set up a curbside voting project. If not a member, we wouldn't have received the grants.

– Hon. Batina Dodge, Clerk,
Scotland County, Mo.



NACo has been invaluable—the information they provide, the outreach, especially the CARES funding. There are just so many resources, all I have to do is reach out and they have it right there ready for me.

– Hon. Robert Post, Commissioner,
Banner County, Neb.



No matter what you're facing, chances are someone else has gone through it. As a member, I can connect with those folks. It helps me do my job better.

– Hon. Commissioner Merceria Ludgood,
Mobile County, Ala.

Everyone you add to your network adds you to theirs. It's the definition of a win/win.

Our goal is to strengthen America's counties and help our members achieve personal and professional success.

For more information about any of our programs, services and benefits:
visit naco.org/events | email membership@naco.org | call 888.407.NACo (6226)

SAVE.

Member Benefit #4: Save time. Save money. For you and your residents.



Help your residents save

All your residents can save money on prescriptions, health and dental costs through the NACo member-only Live Healthy Prescription Discount Program. This program is a no-cost, no-contract benefit available to NACo member counties, parishes and boroughs. Residents have saved more than \$715 million since the program began.



Help your county save

Savings takes many forms for NACo members. Accessing important technology infrastructure resources through the Tech Xchange, learning about federal grant opportunities to help save taxpayer dollars or maximizing your cash investments through cashvest® by three+one. The benefits of NACo may literally pay off your yearly dues in savings.



Help your elected officials and staff save more

We all worry about saving for retirement. Through NACo's Deferred Comp Program administered by Nationwide, every county employee can save more for retirement. The program is an opt-in, tax-deferred savings program that supplements employer-sponsored retirement plans. More than 1.5 million employees and retirees have accumulated more than \$23 billion in extra retirement savings.

Savings is measurable. And can offset your yearly dues many different ways.

Our goal is to strengthen America's counties and help our members achieve personal and professional success.

For more information about any of our programs, services and benefits:

visit naco.org/costsavings | email membership@naco.org | call 888.407.NACo (6226)



We can pass the NACo prescription discount card out to get instant savings! We've saved residents hundreds of thousands of dollars over the last 12 years.

– Hon. Viola Harris, Commissioner, Edgecombe County, N.C.



I enrolled in the Nationwide plan because I understood the value of compounding dollars, I understood the necessity of planning for later years in life and I understood the opportunity of the vehicle that was available.

– Dr. E. Camille Davis, Louisville Metro Government, Ky.



Whether it's legislation, rule-making or funding, NACo has a seat at the table on our behalf. It's one of the best ROI's a county could have!

– Hon. Robert Gelder, Commissioner, Kitsap County, Wash.

SUCCEED.

Member Benefit #5:

The personal success of more than 78% of U.S. counties, parishes and boroughs including yours.



Better Leaders



Stronger Federal Policy



Growing Economies



Healthier Residents



Shared Solutions



Engaged Employees



Lower Cost Prescriptions



Lasting Friendships



Healthy, Safe and Vibrant Communities



My county wants to be a part of an organization that makes counties a priority, works hard to make the lives of our citizens better and works hard for us in D.C.

– Hon. Amy Hale Milliken, Attorney, Warren County, Ky.



The relationships that I've made through the Rural Action Caucus are just invaluable.

– Hon. J.D. Clark, Judge, Wise County, Texas



At NACo, issues get elevated to the forefront when people are talking about problems together – the issue is then escalated and NACo provides resources for it.

– Hon. Ron Berry, Commissioner, Roane County, Tenn.

NACo membership is about you, your county workforce and most importantly, your residents.

Our goal is to strengthen America's counties and help our members achieve personal and professional success.

For more information about any of our programs, services and benefits:

visit naco.org/aboutnaco | email membership@naco.org | call 888.407.NACo (6226)

What's Next.

Access NACo Benefits

Whatever your priorities are, NACo has a network or resource for you.



Committee Involvement

Advance sound public policies and strengthen valuable relationships
[NACo.org/GetInvolved](https://naco.org/GetInvolved)



COVID-19 Clearinghouse

Access resources on coronavirus response and recovery
[NACo.org/COVID19](https://naco.org/COVID19)



Webinars

Frequent digital sessions outlining new and innovative county programs
[NACo.org/Webinars](https://naco.org/Webinars)



Conferences & Events

Set the federal policy agenda, learn from experts and network with peers
[NACo.org/Events](https://naco.org/Events)



Leadership Training

Invest in frontline staff and elected officials with an online academy
[NACo.org/Skills](https://naco.org/Skills)



County News

Award-winning publication sent to your inbox every Tuesday
[NACo.org/News](https://naco.org/News)



County Data

Access over 800 data points on all 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs
[CE.NACo.org](https://ce.naco.org)



Cost Savings

Save your county, staff and residents time and money
[NACo.org/CostSavings](https://naco.org/CostSavings)



NACo Staff

NACo professionals are an extension of county members and staff
[NACo.org/Staff](https://naco.org/Staff)



Civic Education

Enrich the public's understanding of county government
[NACo.org/iCivics](https://naco.org/iCivics)

Make the most of your NACo membership by participating in the many activities we have throughout the year. Our goal is to strengthen America's counties and help our members achieve personal and professional success.

For more information:

visit [NACo.org/events](https://naco.org/events) | email membership@naco.org | call 888.407.NACo (6226)

ACCESS



ENGAGE

NETWORK



SAVE

SUCCEED



National Association of Counties

660 North Capitol Street NW
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20001
888.407.NACo (6226)
www.NACo.org
membership@naco.org

My County. My NACo.





Legislative Resolution

421 N. COUNTY FARM
ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187
www.dupagecounty.gov

File #: LEG-R-0036-23

Agenda Date: 4/25/2023

Agenda #: 7.A.

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION
LEG-R-0035-23 AMENDING THE COUNTY'S 2023
FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the DuPage County Board annually adopts a federal legislative agenda that includes legislative priorities that are submitted to the county's federal lawmakers for action; and

WHEREAS, the DuPage County Board adopted its federal legislative agenda on February 28, 2023; and

WHEREAS, from time-to-time the Legislative Committee determines there is a need to amend legislative priorities to the federal agenda throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, DuPage County, as a non-home rule unit of government, lacks the authority to enact regulations surrounding our national rail freight network; and

WHEREAS, over the past year multiple train derailments of hazardous waste materials have brought attention to the national rail network as it has had drastic impacts on many local communities public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the merger of Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern will create more train traffic throughout DuPage County on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, the safety of DuPage County residents is the number one concern of the DuPage County Board; and

WHEREAS, the County's Legislative Committee recommended an amendment to the county's federal legislative program to include support of language related to improving freight rail safety; and

WHEREAS, the language necessary should include a framework allocating more funding for grants to study the national rail network, requiring carriers to address delays that result in blocked crossings impacting county operations, upgrading the strength and requirements of tanker cars transporting hazardous materials, and additional funding for grants to clean up any hazardous waste spills that may occur from a trail derailment; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has three pieces of proposed bipartisan legislation currently pending: S. 576, *the Railway Safety Act*, H.R. 1674, *the DERAILED Act*, and H.R. 1633, *the RAIL Act*; and

WHEREAS, the DuPage County Board requests that the United States Congress pass these three pieces of legislation mandating new freight rail safety standards.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, per the recommendation of the Legislative Committee, that the DuPage County Board hereby amends its 2023 federal agenda to include the aforementioned priority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that staff and the County’s lobbyists are directed to work together with the County’s legislative delegation in collaboration with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to advance the amended 2023 Federal Legislative Program in Washington D.C.

Enacted and approved the 9th day of May, 2023 at Wheaton, Illinois.

DEBORAH A. CONROY, CHAIR
DU PAGE COUNTY BOARD

Attest: _____

JEAN KACZMAREK, COUNTY CLERK



NACo Legislative Analysis: Freight Rail Safety Legislation in the 118th Congress March 27, 2023

Following the freight train derailment and ensuing disaster that occurred in East Palestine, Ohio in early February, federal policymakers are crossing the aisle to improve freight rail safety. NACo strongly supports efforts to improve the safety of our national rail freight network:

“Counties welcome the efforts of our congressional partners to pass bipartisan legislation to strengthen the safety of our nation’s freight rail network,” said National Association of Counties Executive Director Matthew Chase. “As home to nearly every rail-highway at-grade crossing, counties appreciate lawmakers’ attention to reducing rail delays that create blocked crossings resulting in safety risks and economic challenges. We urge Congress to pursue measures in partnership with state and local governments and other stakeholders. As counties prioritize the health and well-being of our residents and communities, we stand ready to enhance the safety and efficiency of our nation’s freight rail infrastructure.”

Currently, three bipartisan pieces of legislation that would address freight rail safety are moving through Congress:

- [S. 576, the Railway Safety Act](#) (original legislation), sponsored by U.S. Sens. J.D. Vance (Ohio-R) and Sherrod Brown (Ohio-D)
- [H.R. 1674, the DERAILED Act](#) (House companion), sponsored by U.S. Reps. Chris DeLuzio (Penn.-D) and Nick LaLota (R-N.Y.)
- [H.R. 1633, the RAIL Act](#), sponsored by U.S. Reps. Bill Johnson (Ohio-R) and Emelia Sykes (Ohio-D)

Each bill is nearly identical to the next with some key differences outlined in the table below. Most notably, the House bill sponsored by the Ohio delegation, *the RAIL Act*, does *not* contain the two-person crew requirement found in S. 576, *the Railway Safety Act*, and its House companion, H.R. 1674, *the DERAILED Act*.

Provisions across the versions of legislation important to counties include:

- Authorizing \$22 million to research, develop and implement wayside defect detectors under the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Federal Railroad Administration Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) grants
- Requiring carriers to address delays that result in blocked crossings, which cost local communities time and money and create extreme safety hazards at at-grade rail crossings, where *nearly all* are located within county boundaries
- Requiring the strengthening and upgrade of tank cars transporting hazardous materials and establishing a deadline for the phase out of older, less safe cars
- Increasing resources for USDOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Assistance for Local Emergency Response Training (ALERT) grants that support hazardous materials (HAZMAT) response training for volunteer or remote emergency responders using new Class I registration fees

The safety of our local communities is paramount for county officials. With roughly 140,000 miles of track nationwide, there are few areas of the country where rail does not leave its footprint directly. Counties are also where the vast majority of dangerous at-grade rail-highway crossings exist with many in rural areas even lacking warning signs and signals.

As we continue to learn from the East Palestine derailment, we know there are other risks besides crashes, including serious environmental and climate concerns, than can occur when a train carrying HAZMAT derails. **Rail safety is a critical issue for counties, and we urge Congress to improve safety using thoughtful and intentional measures made in partnership with state and local governments that will best safeguard America's counties and our residents.**

Sections	H.R. 1633 – RAIL Act (Johnson & Sykes)	H.R. 1674 – DERAILED Act (Deluzio & LaLota) / S. 576 – Railway Safety Act (Vance & Brown)	NACo Policy
<p>Creates new safety requirements for freight rail.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue or modify regulations based on NTSB’s report of the East Palestine derailment within one year of it being issued to require the following from trains carrying HAZMAT but not subject to high-hazard flammable train regs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide advanced notification and info on the transport of HAZMAT to each state emergency response commission (SERC) or tribal response commission ○ Include written gas discharge plan in the notification ○ Reduce/eliminate delays that cause blocked crossings • Develop new “additional requirements” around train length, weight, rail cards, routes, speeds, track standards, maintenance, train control, response times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue or modify regulations based on NTSB’s report of the East Palestine derailment within one year of it being issued to require the following from trains carrying HAZMAT but not subject to high-hazard flammable train regs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide advanced notification and info on the transport of HAZMAT to each state emergency response commission (SERC) or tribal response commission ○ Include written gas discharge plan in the notification ○ Reduce/eliminate delays that cause blocked crossings • Develop new “additional requirements” around train length, weight, rail cards, routes, speeds, track standards, maintenance, train control, response times • Adds “other items as deemed necessary by Sec’y” under covered activities for “additional requirements” • Allows Sec’y to modify existing safety requirements for high hazard flammable trains 	<p><i>Counties urge Congress to provide additional funding to local governments, states and railroads to improve grade crossings and separations allowing for safer interactions between road and rail traffic.</i></p>

Sections	H.R. 1633 – RAIL Act (Johnson & Sykes)	H.R. 1674 – DERAILED Act (Deluzio & LaLota) / S. 576 – Railway Safety Act (Vance & Brown)	NACo Policy
<p>Expands requirements for rail car inspections.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within one year of the bill’s enactment, Sec’y must update regs to create minimum time requirements inspectors must spend inspecting a train and to ensure HAZMAT cars are inspected by qualified persons at different intervals • Within 60 days of the bill’s enactment, Sec’y must audit federal rail inspections programs to determine compliance • Must audit Class I RRs at least every five years (<i>currently every 2 years</i>) and adds requirement to annually audit selected Class II (regional RRs) and III (short line RRs) RRs as determined by the Sec’y (<i>GAO determined FRA was not sufficiently inspecting IIs and IIIs</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If programs are determined insufficient, RR must update ○ Auditees, including the RRs, their employees and any labor org must participate during the audit or USDOT must notify House T&I / Senate Commerce • 3x a year, Sec’y must determine if an update to RR freight car safety standards is warranted • USDOT must publish an annual report containing audit findings and any related reg updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within one year of the bill’s enactment, Sec’y must update regs to create minimum time requirements inspectors must spend inspecting a train and to ensure HAZMAT cars are inspected by qualified persons at different intervals • Within 60 days of the bill’s enactment, Sec’y must audit federal rail inspections programs to determine compliance • Must audit Class I RRs at least every five years (<i>currently every 2 years</i>) and adds requirement to annually audit selected Class II (regional RRs) and III (short line RRs) RRs as determined by the Sec’y (<i>GAO determined FRA was not sufficiently inspecting IIs and IIIs</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If programs are determined insufficient, RR must update ○ Auditees, including the RRs, their employees and any labor org must participate during the audit or USDOT must notify House T&I / Senate Commerce • 3x a year, Sec’y must determine if an update to RR freight car safety standards is warranted • USDOT must publish an annual report containing audit findings and any related reg updates 	<p><i>Counties support the Rail Routing Risk Assessment required and audited annually by the FRA. Counties urge Congress to further require local and state review of, and input into, the risk model.</i></p>

Sections	H.R. 1633 – RAIL Act (Johnson & Sykes)	H.R. 1674 – DERAILED Act (Deluzio & LaLota) / S. 576 – Railway Safety Act (Vance & Brown)	NACo Policy
Upgrades wayside defect detectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDOT must, within one year after the bill's enactment, set regs for the installation, repair, testing, maintenance and operation of wayside detectors for rail carriers operating HAZMAT trains • Creates new regs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Class I RRs must install a wayside detector every 10 miles on tracks where HAZMAT is carried ○ Est. a temperature at which the detector would indicate a failure from overheating (<i>preliminarily is likely what went wrong in East Palestine</i>) ○ Next steps that an operator must take when a detector is triggered • Requires the heat threshold of placards be 180 degrees and allows threshold to be increased as necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDOT must, within one year after the bill's enactment, set regs for the installation, repair, testing, maintenance and operation of wayside detectors for rail carriers operating HAZMAT trains • Creates new regs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Class I RRs must install a wayside detector every 10 miles on tracks where HAZMAT is carried ○ Est. a temperature at which the detector would indicate a failure from overheating (<i>preliminarily is likely what went wrong in East Palestine</i>) ○ Next steps that an operator must take when a detector is triggered 	N/A
Mandates two-person train crews.	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandates two-person train crews for all freight trains consisting of at least one conductor and one engineer • Creates exemptions, including for carriers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operating off a main line track ○ With 40K less employees and \$40M or less in annual operating revenue (<i>this exempts many Class II and III RRs</i>) where the train is traveling at or less than 25 MPH on a track with a grade of < 2% for any two continuous miles ○ Assisting another train or unattached to any equipment or only a caboose and do not travel > 30 miles ○ Without a two-person crew before the date of enactment of the mandate by this bill (1 yr.) as determined by the Sec'y 	N/A

<p>Mandates two-person train crews, cont'd.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codifies certain trains never eligible for exemptions, including those: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carrying inhalant HAZMAT as defined in the CFR ○ With 20 contiguous cars carrying flammable HAZMAT or a train with 35 non-contiguous HAZMAT cars <i>(this is the current req.)</i> • Adds requirement for trains of 7,500 ft.+ in length • RR can seek waiver 	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Increases civil penalties for rail safety violations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases penalties related to transporting HAZMAT, including caps on fines for safety violations for rail carriers from \$75K to the greater of .5% of the person's annual income or the RR's annual operating income or \$750K and, where death or serious injury results, from \$175K to \$1.75M • Increases penalties for general violations from \$500 to \$25K to the greater of .5% of the person's annual income or the RR's annual operating income or \$250K and, where death or serious injury results, from \$100K to the greater of 1% of the person's annual income, RR's operating income or \$1M • Increases penalties for accidental and/or incidental violations of rail safety standards from \$25K to the greater of .5% of the person's income or the RR's annual operating income or \$250K • Increases cap on penalties for persons acting grossly negligent or in a pattern of violating rail safety regs from \$25K to the greater of .5% of the person's annual income or the RR's annual operating income or \$250K and, where death or serious injury results, from \$100K to \$1M 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases penalties related to transporting HAZMAT, including caps on fines for safety violations for rail carriers from \$75K to the greater of .5% of the person's annual income or the RR's annual operating income or \$750K and, where death or serious injury results, from \$175K to \$1.75M • Increases penalties for general violations from \$500 to \$25K to the greater of .5% of the person's annual income or the RR's annual operating income or \$250K and, where death or serious injury results, from \$100K to the greater of 1% of the person's annual income, RR's operating income or \$1M • Increases penalties for accidental and/or incidental violations of rail safety standards from \$25K to the greater of .5% of the person's income or the RR's annual operating income or \$250K • Increases cap on penalties for persons acting grossly negligent or in a pattern of violating rail safety regs from \$25K to the greater of .5% of the person's annual income or the RR's annual operating income or \$250K and, where death or serious injury results, from \$100K to \$1M 	<p>N/A</p>

Sections	H.R. 1633 – RAIL Act (Johnson & Sykes)	H.R. 1674 – DERAILED Act (Deluzio & LaLota) / S. 576 – Railway Safety Act (Vance & Brown)	NACo Policy
Builds safer tank cars.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phases out old rail cars by May 1, 2028 Sec’y must update other regs and any related deadlines to conform with this section 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phases out old rail cars by May 1, 2025* Sec’y must update other regs and any related deadlines to conform with this section <p><i>*The House bill includes additional language “notwithstanding Section 7304 of the FAST Act” (est. different phase out schedules for some HAZMATs)</i></p>	<i>Counties support rigorous tank car standards, including enhanced thermal protection for tank cars and eliminating the usage of older tank cars that are considered unsafe for moving hazardous materials.</i>
Increases HAZMAT training for first responders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Est. a new, \$1M annual fee for Class I carriers Amends ALERT Grants to broaden training materials covered and adds new annual fee as second funding source for ALERT Grants Increases authorization level from \$2M annually to \$4M for supplemental training grants to national nonprofit fire service orgs to train the instructors responsible for training first responders and others required to respond to HAZMAT incidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Est. a new, \$1M annual fee for Class I carriers Amends ALERT Grants to broaden training materials covered and adds new annual fee as second funding source for ALERT Grants Increases authorization level from \$2M annually to \$4M for supplemental training grants to national nonprofit fire service orgs to train the instructors responsible for training first responders and others required to respond to HAZMAT incidents 	<i>NACo passed a 2020 – 2021 resolution calling on additional appropriations for ALERT grants to make up for funding levels that depend on how efficiently states use Hazard Mitigation Emergency Preparedness grants. As states utilize this funding more effectively, less resources are left for ALERT grants.</i>
Adds wayside detectors as CRISI eligibility and authorizes appropriations.	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adds R&D for wayside detectors as an eligible use under CRISI* Authorizes \$22M to carry out new eligibilities under CRISI (counties directly eligible for CRISI grants) Authorizes \$5 million for grants to PHMSA for the R&D of safer tank cars <p><i>*The House bill adds “implementation” as an additional eligibility for wayside detectors under CRISI grants</i></p>	<i>Counties believe Congress should provide assistance to local governments, states, and railroads for the rehabilitation, preservation, and improvement of rail lines with the goal of maintaining and improving needed freight service.</i>



Legislative Resolution

421 N. COUNTY FARM
ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187
www.dupagecounty.gov

File #: LEG-R-0037-23

Agenda Date: 4/25/2023

Agenda #: 7.B.

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION
LEG-R-0034-23 AMENDING THE COUNTY'S 2023
STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the DuPage County Board annually adopts a state legislative agenda that includes legislative priorities that are submitted to the county's state lawmakers for action; and

WHEREAS, the DuPage County Board adopted its state legislative agenda on January 24, 2023; and

WHEREAS, from time-to-time the Legislative Committee determines there is a need to amend legislative priorities to the state agenda throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, DuPage County, as a non-home rule unit of government, lacks the authority to enact regulations surrounding firearms; and

WHEREAS, per the 2022 Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Report, more than 1 million guns were stolen from private citizens from 2017 to 2021; and

WHEREAS, a 2015 study reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association estimated that roughly 4.6 million children live in a home with loaded and unlocked firearms; and

WHEREAS, according to research funded by the National Institute of Justice, over 80% of mass shooters at K-12 schools stole guns from family members; and

WHEREAS, it is a safe practice to store firearms so they are not accessible to unauthorized individuals or minors; and

WHEREAS, firearms that are securely stored will reduce opportunities for individuals to harm themselves or others; and

WHEREAS, the County's Legislative Committee recommended an amendment to the county's state legislative program to include support of language related to mandating safe firearm storage; and

WHEREAS, the language necessary should include a framework as outlined in Ethan’s Law, where gun owners would be required to secure their firearms in a “secure gun storage or safety device” or “in a location that a reasonable person would believe to be secure” if a minor is likely to gain access to the firearm without permission, or if a resident of the dwelling cannot legally possess a firearm under existing law; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly has legislation before it that closely mirrors Ethan’s Law (Senate Bill 1521); and

WHEREAS, the DuPage County Board requests that the Illinois General Assembly enact legislation mandating safe firearm storage.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, per the recommendation of the Legislative Committee, that the DuPage County Board hereby amends its 2023 state agenda to include the aforementioned priority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that staff and the County’s lobbyists are directed to work together with the County’s legislative delegation to advance the amended 2023 State Legislative Program in Springfield.

Enacted and approved this 9th of May, 2023 at Wheaton, Illinois.

DEBORAH A. CONROY, CHAIR
DU PAGE COUNTY BOARD

Attest: _____

JEAN KACZMAREK, COUNTY CLERK