

I want to congratulate Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Defazio on this bill, and thank them for working with me thru the committee, floor, and conference committee to make this bill better. Recommendations made by our Freight Panel last Congress led to new provisions that will improve the efficiency of freight movement and ease congestion on roads and rail; this is critical for our nation's freight hub in northeastern Illinois as we continue the CREATE rail program and other large freight projects. The bill includes provisions I authored to increase Buy America content, deploy zero emission buses, and improve tank car safety standards, which will produce more American jobs, protect the environment, and improve community safety. The FAST Act will also improve public transit and active transportation infrastructure. And it prepares us for the future by including research provisions from my FUTURE TRIP Act, and I want to thank Science Committee Chairman Smith for working with me on this. The FAST Act is a step forward on jobs, the economy, and improving our quality of life across the nation.