

Minister of Transport



Ministre des Transports

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

NOV 18 2013

Mr. Larry Miller, M.P.
Chair
Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Chair:

Further to my appearance of November 18, 2013 at the Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities and as follow-up to this committee's important 2008 study on rail safety in Canada, I respectfully ask that a new in-depth review of the Canadian regime regarding the safe Transportation of Dangerous Goods and the role of Safety Management Systems across all modes of transportation be conducted, that an interim report be submitted by June 2014, and that the committee's findings be presented in a final report by December 2014.

To this end, you will find enclosed a list of specific areas that merit further study in each mode as well as areas of consideration on the transportation of dangerous goods.

This committee has an important role to play in reviewing and proposing improvements to transportation safety across all modes; I therefore sincerely hope the Committee will agree to this request.

I would like to thank you, Mr. Chair, and all Committee members for your consideration and for the time and effort that will be dedicated to this important exercise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LRaitt'.

The Honourable Lisa Raitt, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport

Enclosure



Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities

Proposed review of the Canadian regime regarding the safe Transportation of Dangerous Goods and the role of Safety Management Systems across all modes of Transportation

While taking into consideration both ongoing and completed efforts to further strengthen Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) safety and Safety Management Systems (SMS) implementation in Canada;

And given the growing volumes of dangerous goods being transported (e.g., crude oil);

And given ongoing concern regarding the further integration of SMS and “safety culture” in all modes of transportation;

The Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities is requested to undertake the following:

- A review the current TDG regime and make recommendations on further areas for improvement; and,
- A review of the progress made on SMS implementation in all modes since 2008 and make recommendations on additional measures to further improve adoption and/or promotion.

More specifically, the Committee is asked to consider the following questions:

Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG)

- What additional measures could be taken to strengthen TDG safety across all modes of transportation?
- How does Canada’s TDG regime compare to that of the United States?
- Should the implementation of Safety Management systems be adjusted to provide a greater focus on the transportation of dangerous goods?



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Safety Management Systems (SMS)

- What is the current state of SMS implementation in all modes of transportation?
- Has the implementation of SMS improved the safety of our transportation regime?
- What additional measures could be taken to further improve the adoption and integration of SMS in all transportation modes (air, marine, and rail)?

The Committee is respectfully asked to submit an interim report to the Minister of Transport by the end of June, 2014, and a final report by the end of December, 2014.