



Michael J. Murphy
City of Milwaukee Common Council

Senator Baldwin steps up on train bridge issue

**Statement from Common Council President Michael J. Murphy
July 13, 2015**

I would like to commend Senator Tammy Baldwin for her leadership in requesting that federal bridge safety specialists conduct a thorough inspection as soon as possible of the visibly worn train bridge located at S. 1st and W. Oregon Streets in the 5th Ward (please see **attached** letter).

The Federal Railroad Administration will be able to adequately determine whether the bridge is safe to shoulder the repeated loads of highly combustible Bakken crude oil going over its tracks nearly a dozen times each week.

I was shocked last week to learn that the bridge's owner, Canadian Pacific, was unwilling to share with the city the results of an inspection of the bridge conducted a few months ago. I was also very disappointed when the railroad refused to send a representative to address the matter in a public meeting with members of the Common Council last week.

Senator Baldwin's willingness to step up and help the City of Milwaukee in this matter is much appreciated.

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 10, 2015

Ms. Sarah Feinberg
Acting Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

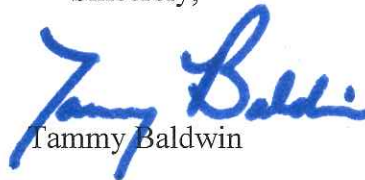
Dear Administrator Feinberg:

I am writing to express concerns raised by Milwaukee citizens and elected officials over a Canadian Pacific bridge crossing in the city's densely populated 5th Ward district. The bridge crosses West Oregon Street at South 1st Street and carries crude oil from the Bakken up to 11 times per week. I would strongly urge you to send bridge safety specialists to inspect the bridge as quickly as possible. I also request your confirmation that Canadian Pacific has provided adequate inspection documentation necessary to satisfy the requirements of the bridge management safety program.

The dramatic increase in train traffic has surely increased the structural demands on the rail networks' bridge infrastructure and I believe a thorough and immediate inspection is warranted. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have worked to increase funding for the Federal Railroad Agency (FRA) to inspect freight rail infrastructure, specifically along crude oil routes. It is critical that the FRA put its resources to use increasing the safety of rail lines that run through communities in Wisconsin and throughout the country.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. Please keep my staff and me apprised of your efforts. For questions or concerns please contact Brian Conlan on my staff at 202-224-5653 or Brian_Conlan@baldwin.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin