

MEDIA ADVISORY

"DOT's revised tank car standard is an important step toward enhancing safety. I commend the Obama administration on finalizing this rule and look forward to reviewing the rule in greater detail over the coming days to measure its impact.

Implementation of risk based standards based on sound scientific data must steer policy decisions on this issue.

I have full confidence the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration under the leadership of Administrator Butters will continue to do all they can to fully protect the American public.

Successfully addressing prevention, mitigation, and response requires the active participation of all interested parties. PHMSA's stronger tank car standards will help mitigate damages caused by derailments, but we must also address the state of rail infrastructure to anticipate and prevent accidents from occurring in the first place.

To that end, I call upon the Federal Railroad Administration to leave no stone unturned in addressing rail infrastructure safety.

Finally, we must resist taking our eye off the ball when it comes to tangential issues not directly tied to rail safety.

Safety is a shared responsibility, and we must all work together to strengthen our transportation network."

- Brigham A. McCown, CEO and Chairman of the Alliance for Innovation and Infrastructure

As to today's events, McCown has been following the on-going revelations closely and has spoken frequently on the need for greater safety measures in current oil train transportation standards.

Until 2007, Mr. McCown served as the federal government's chief energy transportation safety regulator as the Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) in Washington, DC.

His current role as Chairman and CEO of the Alliance for Innovation and Infrastructure (Aii), a national, independent, nonprofit focusing on infrastructure innovation, including on crude-by-rail issues, through awareness and education.

CONTACT:

Ashley VanBuskirk
(202) 808-3288
Avanbuskirk@aiiwire.org