

by RFD

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R-70-14

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SEP 2 1970

Honorable Harold G. Heiss
Acting Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
Department of Transportation
Washington, D. C. 20591

Dear Mr. Heiss:

We have your comments of August 28, 1970, with respect to the Board's letter of July 7, 1970, addressed to the Association of American Railroads and to the presidents of railroads transporting liquefied flammable gases in tank cars.

We believe the joint AAR-RFI Railroad Tank Car Safety Research and Test Project will in time find a practical solution to the problem. However, it appears that such solution may take at least two years. Also, the program approved by the AAR's Board of Directors is similarly long range. Therefore, until tank cars are redesigned, interim action is required.

We are pleased to note from your letter of August 28, that you are considering a means of reducing the speeds of hazardous materials trains through incorporated communities by rulemaking proceedings. We, therefore, recommend that the Federal Railroad Administration immediately initiate a proposed rulemaking procedure to restrict the speed of trains carrying liquefied flammable gases in tank cars of capacities exceeding 25,000 gallons through incorporated communities.

Sincerely yours,

Original signed by
John H. Reed

John H. Reed
Chairman

Members
Chairman
General Counsel
Executive Director

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Notation 459-B Approved by the Board August 31, 1970