



# Tammy Baldwin introduces bill on trains carrying crude oil

By Lee Bergquist of the Journal Sentinel  
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Four Democratic U.S. senators, including Sen. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, introduced legislation on Wednesday that would set tougher safety standards for freight trains carrying crude oil.

The legislation would halt the use of more than 100,000 older tankers not designed to carry volatile crude oil from the Bakken region of North Dakota and Montana.

The bill would also require federal authorities to write rules to reduce the volatility of gases in the oil.

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Co. hauls 29 to 39 trains of crude oil a week along the Mississippi River corridor in Wisconsin, according to state figures. Seven to 11 Canadian Pacific tanker trains runs through 11 Wisconsin counties, including Waukesha, Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha each week.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported this month that a growing volume of oil is being shipped by railroads through the state at a time when safety worries are putting the industry under closer scrutiny.

"As more and more volatile crude oil moves through Wisconsin and through our country via rail, it is critical that appropriate safety measures are in place to reduce the risk of deadly accidents," Baldwin said at a news conference in Washington, D.C.

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