



**Fiscal Year 2017  
Appropriations Wins**

**Congressman Henry Cuellar  
28<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, TX**

## TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

### 1. Grants for international rail grade crossings:

*Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grants (CRISI)* – The Committee recommends \$25,000,000 for CRISI grants, \$25,000,000 more than the fiscal year 2016 enacted level and \$25,000,000 more than the budget request. The Committee recognizes that communities with high volume international inland ports on the U.S.-Mexico border face unique transportation challenges caused by international trade. The Committee encourages the agency to consider the impacts of those freight movements, including traffic, highway-rail grade crossings, congestion and safety when awarding grants.

### 2. Language directing PHMSA to work with local governments at international inland POES:

*Inland ports of entry* - The Committee directs PHMSA to work with local governments at international inland ports of entry with a high volume of hazardous material border crossings to reduce the risk associated with crossing and storing hazardous material and to enhance the capacity of local officials in dealing with threats of hazardous material incident.

### 3. Keep and Modify FY16 Report Language: DOT implement GAO rail congestion study recommendations

*Congestion at international rail crossings.* - The Committee understands that there are a number of international rail crossings where the switching of train operators has caused delays and resulted in street blockage on the United States side of the border. GAO conducted an assessment of best practices that can be used to reduce rail border crossing times and reduce the blockage of street crossings. The Committee encourages the Secretary of Transportation to improve the availability of national data to quantify freight trends, impacts on local traffic and continue to work with all relevant state and federal agencies and their Mexican counterparts to harmonize regulations and address congestion at international rail crossings per the recommendations made in the GAO report. The Committee directs FRA to report to the Committee on its progress within 90 days of the enactment of this Act.