

Castle Succeeds in Boosting Funding for Rail Security -- May 26, 2006

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Mike Castle's bipartisan amendment along with Rep. Holt (D-NJ) and Rep. Lynch (D-MA) that would increase funding for rail security from \$150 million to \$200 million passed overwhelmingly yesterday by a vote of 225 to 197. The amendment would boost funding in the Homeland Security Appropriations bill to add more police officers, canine teams, security cameras, fences, and chemical detection systems at train stations and on subways and commuter systems across the country.

"I am extremely pleased that my rail security amendment passed by a large margin as part of this bill. Over the last several years, funding for rail and transit security grants has been stagnant at \$150 million and annual rail security spending for the TSA has averaged about \$10 million. Over this same period, our government has spent close to \$20 billion on aviation security and this bill also provides \$4.2 billion for port security -- while this spending is essential, we cannot forget about rail security. My amendment is a significant step forward towards closing this gap and will provide a much need increase of \$50 million for rail and transit security grants.

"In the wake of attacks on subway trains in London and on passenger rail lines in Madrid, it is clear that terrorist organizations are intent on disrupting surface transportation systems and mass transit around the world. We are very lucky that an attack has not taken place in the United States and we now have a great opportunity to be proactive and begin adequately funding rail and transit security in this country. I believe my amendment sets forth a course for achieving this goal and protecting American travelers," Castle said.