

Aric Newhouse

Senior Vice President
Policy and Government Relations

April 26, 2018

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to oppose amendment 89 to end U.S. harmonization with global standards for lithium and lithium ion batteries to H.R. 4, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2018, offered by Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR).

The NAM has worked to support globally harmonized lithium battery provisions in the U.S. hazardous materials regulations (HMR) and opposes attempts to move to a U.S.-only regulatory policy that would put American manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage. Manufacturers believe global standards for domestic and international shipments by air enhance safety. It simplifies packaging and labeling requirements and supports uniform training programs for employees who handle lithium battery shipments.

By ending U.S. harmonization with global standards for lithium and lithium ion batteries, this amendment would enable a different regulatory approach that would create onerous burdens without improving aviation safety or addressing the compliance of existing regulations in many other parts of the world.

An international patchwork of air cargo rules would cause supply chain disruptions, confuse shippers, harm trade, and put life-saving medical devices and critical defense communications equipment out of reach for rapid air delivery in a just-in-time business climate.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on amendment 89 to H.R. 4, including procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 115th Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Aric Newhouse

Key Manufacturing Vote