

RAILROAD INDUSTRY SHARES ITS POWERFUL STORY ON CAPITOL HILL



More than 500 railroaders, contractors, suppliers and shippers visited Washington, D.C., Wednesday, May 8 for Railroad Day On Capitol Hill. Attendees shared with federal representatives the importance of the railroad industry to restoring America's economy, improving the environment, and connecting the country to the global marketplace.

Co-hosted by the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA), Association of American Railroads (AAR), Railway Tie Association (RTA), National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association (NRC), Railway Supply Institute (RSI), Railway

Engineering-Maintenance Suppliers Association (REMSA) and Railway Systems Suppliers Inc. (RSSI), the event is designed to communicate to legislators a unified railroad industry message from all facets of the industry.

Participants visited with 350 congressional offices to call on Congress to extend the Short Line Tax Credit (45G), ensuring the nation's 600 small business railroads can invest more of their private money in infrastructure, keeping small town and rural America connected to the U.S. economy; oppose any increases to truck size or length; and preserve the balanced economic regulation of the railroad industry.

According to ASLRRA economic impact data, the short line railroad industry touches one in five cars moving annually at origin or destination. Industries reliant on short line transportation services provide 478,820 jobs, \$26.1 billion in labor income and \$56.2 billion in value to the U.S. economy. In addition, short line railroads annually invest between 25 and 33 percent of revenues in maintenance and upgrades.

RTA Executive Director Jim Gauntt attended the event that was open to all railroad personnel, shippers, labor rail representatives, state and local government representatives, and members of the supplier community with an interest in furthering the political goals of the industry.

With short lines particularly concerned about access to capital for track maintenance and improvements, Gauntt said it is imperative RTA leadership and members show up and play a significant role in those meetings.

"Of all the things our members can do each year, the most impactful to their businesses is to speak directly with their elected officials about what moves the needle for them," Gauntt said. "We know tie demand increases by as much as 1 million ties when the 45G tax credit is in place. It is critical we tell our story in support of the rail industry and short lines in particular."

"This is the single day that the whole industry comes together to exercise our First Amendment rights to petition our ►



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government on issues that are important to us and to the customers and communities we serve,” said Chuck Baker, ASLRRRA president. ASLRRRA represents the industry’s 603 short lines and their suppliers. “Freight rail is critical to America’s continued growth and prosperity, supporting millions of jobs at agricultural, manufacturing and energy facilities across the country. Our issues are ones that Congress should care about—spurring economic growth,

providing safe and environmentally friendly transportation, and ensuring every industry and geography has access to the U.S. and global economy.

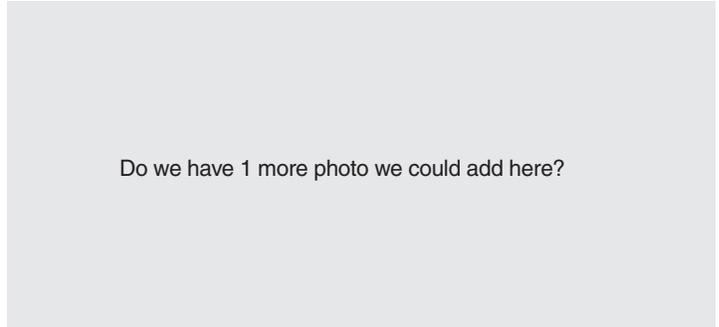
Railroad Day on the Hill began 20 years ago and now has become one of the most organized and comprehensive industry days in Washington.

“Railroad Day provides the opportunity for our members and the industry to tell their very powerful story,” Baker continued.

“Our nation’s freight rail system is the envy of the world, providing safe and efficient rail service, moving goods from small town and rural America across the country and into the global economy. Railroad Day sets the table for substantive conversations with Congress on a variety of issues that will confront them in the back half of 2019, including infrastructure, surface transportation reauthorization, appropriations, trade and more.” ■



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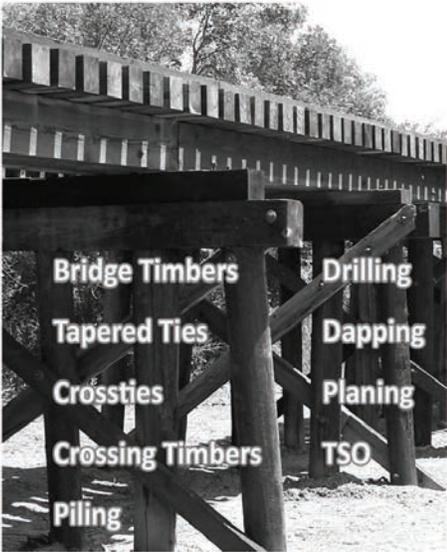
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