



May 12, 2021



Baker Testifies Before Senate Subcommittee on Short Line Contributions, Legislative Priorities

Yesterday, ASLRRRA President Chuck Baker testified before the Senate Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Maritime, Freight, and Ports at a hearing titled [“Freight Mobility: Strengthening America’s Supply Chains and Competitiveness.”](#)



During his May 11 Senate hearing testimony, ASLRRRA President Chuck Baker emphasized the positive contributions of short line railroads and the ways Congress can support railroads’ efforts through legislation.

The hearing focused on challenges facing the freight industry and ways Congress can enhance U.S. transportation infrastructure and supply chains to benefit American freight movement.

In his [testimony](#), Baker identified four defining characteristics of small railroads and described the contributions of short lines to the national freight rail network, including “providing a safe, competitive, and environmentally friendly low-carbon option” to customers in small communities that would otherwise be cut off from larger markets.

“Short lines are a growth engine - particularly for areas of the country that have not shared in all of the country’s economic growth. While we may only move the traffic a few miles to the interchange with the Class I, the service and access we provide each

individual customer is critical to that customer’s success. Short lines work relentlessly to create new business opportunities with current and new customers. They invest in technology and innovation that provides increased safety and new opportunities for customers. They are problem solvers, seeking new ways create value for themselves and the communities in which they operate. As any shipper will tell you, logistics transportation costs and service are huge determinants of success and we take that responsibility very seriously,” said Baker.

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Baker highlighted the environmental benefits of moving freight by rail, describing the fuel savings and emission reductions made by ASLRRRA-member short lines while they move hundreds of tons of goods for their customers.

He then moved on to describe short lines' infrastructure priorities, calling for lawmakers to include short lines fully in any new infrastructure investment, improve crossing safety and the RRIF loan program and implement regulatory policies thoughtfully and equitably.

Enjoy Focused Legal Sessions and Networking Events at ASLRRRA's General Counsel Symposium

This year, ASLRRRA's [General Counsel Symposium](#) will be held in conjunction with the [Eastern and Southern Region Meeting](#) in Louisville, Ky.

On June 21 and 22, symposium attendees can participate in [education sessions](#) geared toward those in the legal field, focusing on rail-industry issues. Some of the featured presentations will discuss encroachments on railroad property, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigations, Federal Employers Liability Act (FELA) toxic tort defenses and section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act.

As an added benefit, those who attend the symposium can register to receive continuing legal education (CLE) credits for an additional cost.

Participants who register for the General Counsel Symposium can enjoy the best of both worlds at this year's meeting, because in addition to targeted education sessions, they will also have the opportunity to participate in many of the same networking events for those attending the regional meeting. This includes an opening reception, breakfast and lunch with sponsors and the golf tournament on June 23.


As with the Eastern and Southern Region Meeting, the General Counsel Symposium will be held at [The Galt House Hotel](#). **Discounted room rates are available, but will end after May 19. Early bird registration discounts for the event itself, and for golf, will end after May 15.** Follow this [link](#) to register for the symposium.

ASLRRRA is also welcoming sponsors for the General Counsel Symposium. Sponsors will be featured in event signage, on ASLRRRA's website and the Association's social media pages. Learn about sponsorship packages [here](#) or contact Amy Westerman at awesterman@aslrra.org with questions or to sign up.

Don't Delay Registering for ASLRRRA's June Meetings – Deadlines are Approaching!

ASLRRRA's [regional meeting](#) deadline to save \$50 on registration is May 15. In addition, early-bird pricing for golf at either meeting (also a savings of \$50) expires May 15.

Hotel room discounted pricing ends May 12 for the Downtown Kansas City Marriott, and on May 19 for the Galt House Hotel in Louisville.

	<p>Position Available: Executive Director, FRA</p> <p>The Federal Railroad Administration is seeking a highly qualified executive to serve as the agency's Executive Director (ED). The ED will provide leadership and direction over programs and managers to include policy direction in the areas of high speed rail, grants management, research and development, policy and legislative issues, strategic planning, financial integrity, human resources, etc.</p> <p>More info: https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/599530900</p>
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TSA Final Rule Codifies Deadline Extension for Training Programs

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has officially extended the compliance date for submission of security training programs, publishing a [final rule](#).

Those owner/operators falling under the scope of TSA's rule will now have until June 21 to submit required security training programs. The rule requires owner/operators of higher-risk freight railroad carriers and other transportation modes to provide TSA-approved security training to employees who perform security-sensitive functions.

The submission deadline for these programs has changed several times due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the most recent due date being March 22. If TSA determines another deadline extension is necessary, it will be announced in the *Federal Register*.



ASLRRA Member Hosts U.S. Representative for Facility Tour, Policy Talk

On May 3, ASLRRA member RailMark Trucks [hosted](#) U.S. Representative Sharice Davids (D-Kan.), giving her a tour of the company's manufacturing facility in Kansas City, Kan.

During the tour, Davids learned about RailMark Trucks, its products and how the company serves the rail industry. She also heard about the importance of the rail industry to Kansas City and Kansas as a whole.

Event participants, which included Angela Schaefer of fellow ASLRRA member Watco, also held a discussion of important rail industry topics, emphasizing the need for rail funding in any future infrastructure legislation and the importance of maintaining current federal limits on truck sizes and weights.

Reconnect with Colleagues
at ASLRRA's In-Person Regional Meetings

Central & Pacific Region June 7-9 Kansas City, MO	Eastern & Southern Region June 21-23 Louisville, KY	General Counsel Symposium June 21-22 Louisville, KY
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ASLRRRA New Members

Know a company that would benefit from joining and participating in ASLRRRA? Please contact ASLRRRA's Vice President of Membership and Business Development [Kathy Keeney](mailto:kathy.keeney@aslrrra.com) via email or on (202) 585-3439.

Two Companies Become ASLRRRA Members

We are pleased to welcome back to our membership rolls this week the following companies:



[Lucas Rail Lines / Louisville, New Albany & Corydon Railroad](#), based in Corydon, Ind. The 8-mile short line mainly carries chemicals and crude oil. It is a subsidiary of Lucas Oil Products, which produces additives and oils. Our primary contact is Nick Amy, Superintendent of Operations. Many thanks to Madison Railroad's Cathy Hale for her assistance with this membership.



[Precision Pipe & Products, Inc.](#) (InfraSteel), based in Birmingham, Ala. It works with engineers and project owners to design structural rehabilitation solutions for culverts, bridges, and other structures in order to provide enhanced service life, strength & durability, and flow capacity. It has worked for CSX, Norfolk Southern, Union Pacific, CP and a few short lines with over 25,000 LF installed across America. Director of Business Development [Dan Dammann](#) is our primary contact and can be reached on (320) 493-5224. Visit their table-top booth at next month's ASLRRRA Eastern & Southern Region meeting in Louisville to learn more about the company.

ASLRRRA Announcements

Early Bird Registration for June Meetings Ends May 15!

ASLRRRA's regional meeting deadline to save \$50 on registration is May 15. In addition, early-bird pricing for golf at either meeting (also a savings of \$50) expires May 15.

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Room discounted pricing ends May 12 for the Downtown Kansas City Marriott, and on May 19 for the Galt House Hotel in Louisville.

The benefit of regional meetings is that the educational content is guided in part by input from each region's vice president, allowing for information more customized to the needs of railroads operating in that particular area.

During the [Central & Pacific Region](#) meeting, Brainerd Chemical Company Chairman Matthew Brainerd will lead "Working with Shippers," a discussion of best practices in building relationships and business from a shipper's perspective.

At the [Eastern & Southern Region](#) meeting, Kentucky-based short line railroaders will lead "Marketing & Business Development Projects in KY," a look at the business opportunities being developed in the state.

And, as always, meeting attendees will have several opportunities to network with different groups. There will be social events with sponsors, railroad and supplier Sandhouse Sessions, meetings with some ASLRRRA committees and golf.

Register today!

[Central & Pacific Region Meeting](#) - June 7-9, 2021 - Kansas City, Mo. ([Kansas City Marriott](#) discounted room rates available until May 12)

[Eastern & Southern Region Meeting](#) - June 21-23, 2021 - Louisville, Ky. ([The Galt House Hotel](#) discounted room rates available until May 19)

[General Counsel Symposium](#) - June 21-22, 2021 - Louisville, Ky.

Help ASLRRRA Update Its Website by Submitting Pictures of Your Business

Our members do amazing work on the job and in the community, and ASLRRRA would like to share those efforts with a wider audience. ASLRRRA is updating its website, media and print materials, and invites its members to submit images that can be used to accompany other information in these mediums.

Photographs of all kinds are welcome, including pictures of employees working onsite, pictures of meetings and safety briefings, and scenic images with locomotives, trains and equipment.

Please load your high-resolution photo files directly to ASLRRRA's [Member Photos Dropbox file](#) or send them to ASLRRRA's Amy Krouse at akrouse@aslrra.org. Please be sure that the owner of the photograph has given the Association permission to use the image.

**ASLRRRA MEMBERS VALUE VETERANS IN
THE WORKPLACE AND THE COMMUNITY**



*Click here to see how our members
support Veterans and their families*





ASLRRRA Webinars – Live or On-Demand

Upcoming Webinars

[Benefits of Using Rail from Shipper & Logistics Perspective](#) - May 26, 2021

Join ASLRRRA and SmartWay for a discussion about how and why shippers use rail in moving freight, featuring representatives from SmartWay partners BASF and Celtic Logistics. Participation is free for

both ASLRRRA members and non-members, and attendees will have an opportunity to participate in facilitated Q&A throughout the presentation.

On-Demand Webinars Cover Accident/Incident Reporting and Roadway Worker Protection

ASLRRRA's [On-Demand Webinar](#) library features recordings of important regulatory topics, including a three-part discussion of the Federal Railroad Administration's 49 CFR Part 225.

Part 225 deals with railroad accidents and incidents, and the recorded webinar series offers a “back to basics” look at injuries, rail equipment and highway-rail grade crossing. Also found in the On-Demand Webinar library is a recording titled “Roadway Worker Protection (RWP) Hot Topics.”

In addition to these webinars, ASLRRRA offers more than 100 recordings covering a variety of railroad topics, from human resources to crisis communications. Recordings are free to members and available by subscription to non-members. Follow the link above to learn more.

[Click here](#) for more ASLRRRA events.

Industry Events and Announcements

June 8-11: Register Today for SLSI's Leadership Development Training Course

Space is still available for the Short Line Safety Institute's (SLSI) online [Leadership Development Training](#) course in June, a multi-day virtual event helping railroad managers improve their leadership skills.

The course takes place June 8 to 11, and is geared toward managers at every level of experience. Participants will enjoy interactive sessions that help them provide more effective communication, deliver constructive feedback, manage agreements and build high-performance teams.

Watch this [video](#) to learn more about SLSI's Leadership Development Program, or go directly [here](#) to register for the course. SLSI's training events are offered at no cost to railroads and their employees. Railroads can also arrange to have a training course for their employees at their location. Contact SLSI's Sam Cotton at sam.cotton@shortlinesafety.org with questions or to schedule a course.

SLSI Safety Train Brings HazMat Training To Short Line Railroads, While Safety Tips Offer Downloadable Learning

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The Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI) is bringing its Safety Train and corresponding [hazardous materials training program](#) to host railroads across the country, most recently working with employees at ASLRRRA member Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway in Ohio.

Wheeling & Lake Erie's Hazardous Materials and Environmental Officer John Vergis praised the class as being very informative, particularly for the railroad's newest supervisors.

The Safety Train program combines classroom and hands-on training, and can be brought on site at no cost to the railroad. To schedule a training session with SLSI's experienced instructors, contact HMIT@shortlinesafety.org.

The Safety Train will also be at the Outback Railroad Association's [2021 Annual Safety and Training Conference and Tradeshow](#) May 11 to 13 in Deadwood, S.D. and at both of ASLRRRA's regional meetings, the [Central & Pacific Region Meeting](#) June 7-9 in Kansas City, Mo. and the [Eastern & Southern Region Meeting](#) June 21-23 in Louisville, Ky.

In addition to its in-person educational resources, SLSI has other information available to help railroads improve workplace safety culture. The institute recently published a new [Safety Tip](#) discussing the importance of clear and concise communication to help align manager and employee perceptions.

SLSI notes that by aligning perceptions through effective communication, railroad employees at all levels can build and maintain a high level of trust; develop a stronger sense of teamwork; and reduce miscommunication and misunderstanding to improve overall safety performance.

Advice of all kinds is available on SLSI's [Safety Tips](#) page, which is just one of the many [online resources](#) available at no cost to railroads and railroad employees. Learn more about [SLSI](#) by visiting their homepage.

[Click here](#) for more industry events.

Views & News is published by American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association. Please contact [Amy Krouse](#), editor, with questions or comments.