



July 14, 2021



Biden Issues Executive Order Promoting Competition in the American Economy

The White House has issued [Executive Order](#) 14036, *Promoting Competition in the American Economy* (EO), and a [corresponding Fact Sheet](#) purporting to affirm the Administration’s policy “to enforce the antitrust laws to combat the excessive concentration of industry, the abuses of market power, and the harmful effects of monopoly and monopsony,” and “to enforce the antitrust laws to meet the challenges posed by new industries and technologies.” The order, which affects a number of federal agencies and a host of industries ranging from technology to prescription drug pricing to infrastructure, encourages the Surface Transportation Board to consider specific actions that will affect the economic regulation of the rail industry, in Section 5 (n) of the document. STB Chairman, Martin J. Oberman, issued a [press release](#) in support of the EO. ASLRRRA’s staff is working with members of its STB Working Group and Legislative Policy Committee to evaluate the order’s potential effects on the short line industry, and ASLRRRA’s response.

Buckingham Branch Hosts ASLRRRA Staff



Zach Radford, Fred Oelsner, Crystal Gitchell and our summer interns Corinne Ellis and John Angrilla attended.

The ASLRRRA would like to thank the team at the [Buckingham Branch Railroad](#), headquartered in Dillwyn, VA for hosting members of our staff for a tour. Visits to railroads are very beneficial for association staff, allowing us to ask questions and observe operations. This helps us become even more familiar with the industry as we continue to advocate on behalf of your needs. Tom Lynch,



ASLRRRA Supports Temporary Trackage Rights Exemption

On July 12, ASLRRRA submitted [comments](#) in support of the Surface Transportation Board’s proposed regulations establishing a new emergency temporary trackage rights class exemption that could be invoked in specific situations and would allow emergency temporary trackage rights to take effect more expeditiously than under the current practice, which requires a 30-day notice requirement under 49 C.F.R. § 1180.4(g)(1).

Joint Cybersecurity Advisory Issued: Russian Global Brute Force Campaign

The National Security Agency (NSA), Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the UK’s National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) have released Joint Cybersecurity Advisory (CSA): [Russian GRU Conducting Global Brute Force Campaign to Compromise Enterprise and Cloud Environments](#). The advisory includes tactics, techniques and procedures, as well as mitigation strategies.

The CSA provides details on the campaign, which is being conducted by the Russian General Staff Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU) 85th Main Special Service Center (GTsSS). The campaign uses a Kubernetes® cluster in brute force access attempts against the enterprise and cloud environments of government and private sector targets worldwide.

ASLRRRA strongly recommends that members work with their IT teams to secure their systems, and for those teams to [subscribe](#) to National Cyber Awareness System (NCAS) Alerts from CISA.

Other resources available to ASLRRRA members include access to the Association of American Railroads’ [Railway Alert Network \(RAN\) notices](#) concerning cyber issues, and various CISA notifications.

[ASLRRRA’s On-Demand Webinar library](#) also features a three-part series on cybersecurity, presented and sponsored by Collins Aerospace. Look for the following titles using the webinar link.

- Part 1: Introduction to Cybersecurity for Short Line Railroads
- Part 2: Security Controls for Short Line Railroads
- Part 3: Resiliency for Short Lines



ASLRRA Continues to Work with Senate and House Committees on Transportation Priorities

Several Committees will be marking up their portions of transportation and appropriations bills in the next several weeks, and ASLRRA is working to ensure that short line priorities are well represented and understood.

ASLRRA's government affairs team expressed support for a few targeted changes proposed by the AAR to the [Energy Infrastructure Act](#) that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will be marking up this week. The suggested changes involve such issues as ensuring that locomotives are considered in programs that aim to provide government support for advancing next generation energy technologies, including battery manufacturing and the research and development of clean hydrogen.

In addition, ASLRRA has written letters to the following:

- [Senator Kyrsten Sinema, the Democratic leader of the G22, encouraging continued work on the bipartisan infrastructure framework, urging that STIA S.2016 provisions be considered, with a strong freight representation within the \\$66B funding announced for rail](#)
- [U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Senate Commerce Committee, expressing support of the Surface Transportation Investment Act \(STIA\) \(S. 2016\)](#)
- [U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, Urban Development and Related Agencies, providing additional detail on the need for CRISI funding for our industry, and for continued funding of the Short Line Safety Institute](#)

ASLRRA will continue to stay closely engaged with Congress as a transportation bill takes shape.

BEAT THE HEAT ALL SEASON LONG!
Stay Cool When Temperatures Soar and the Mercury Rises

High temperatures and humidity present the risk of heat illness to railroad workers. It's essential to protect everyone, from the new hires to the seasoned employees. Stock up today on cooling gear to keep the team safe and hydrated.

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ASLRRA Announcements

Iowa Interstate Railroad is Latest Member to Join SmartWay®

Congratulations to ASLRRA member Iowa Interstate Railroad, LLC (IAIS), who has joined the SmartWay® Transport Partnership, demonstrating its strong environmental leadership and corporate responsibility.

In [a press release](#), Joe Parsons, IAIS president and CEO stated, “Iowa Interstate Railroad is proud to partner with the U.S. EPA by joining the SmartWay® Transport Partnership. Our participation, along with our continued investments in energy management technologies, reaffirms our commitment to recognizing environmental issues and continuing to reduce our carbon footprint.”

For more information on the SmartWay program, how to join, and ASLRRA recorded webinars regarding the benefits - click [here](#).

ORR Safety Helps Protect Your Employees from Heat-Related Illness

High temperatures and humidity present an increased risk of heat illness to railroad workers, so it is essential to protect everyone, from the new hires to the seasoned employees. ASLRRA Preferred Provider ORR Safety is an ISO 9001-registered distributor of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and related services, and has helped protect hundreds of thousands of workers for more than 70 years. ASLRRA members receive great discounts on a wide selection of PPE, all available at the click of a mouse. View ORR Safety’s online e-catalog at aslrra.org/discounts, and stock up today on cooling gear to keep the team safe and hydrated!



Save the Date for ASLRRA's Annual Conference

2021
Phoenix Convention Center
Phoenix, AZ
November 17-19

2022
St. Louis Convention Center
St. Louis, MO
May 1-4

Visit aslrra.org/events to learn more



ASLRRA Webinars – Live or On-Demand

New Webinar: Hours of Service Pilot Program (Midnight - 6 am); Thursday July 29, 2pm EDT.

Join Dr. Pat Sherry, professor, University of Denver, National Center for Intermodal Transportation and Jo Strang, senior vice president, safety and regulatory policy, ASLRRA to discuss ASLRRA's developing pilot program that would allow train employees to initiate on-duty

periods between the hours of midnight and 6am, on six consecutive days followed by 24 hours of rest before returning to work. Available to members only. Click [here](#) to register.

View Recorded Webinars Presented by ASLRRA's In-House Regulatory Experts

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ASLRRRA's [online resource library](#) offers more than 150 webinar recordings on a variety of topics. From industry-specific finance, human resources and legal issues to business development and regulatory compliance, there is a session to meets the needs of every member of your team.

All recordings are available on demand at the click of a mouse by visiting [aslrra.org/webinars](#). Check out the sessions featured below, presented by ASLRRRA subject-matter experts and found in the Regulatory category:

- [Emergency Docket Waivers](#) Presented by ASLRRRA's Jo Strang, SVP Safety & Regulatory Policy and JR Gelnar, VP, Safety & Compliance
- [FRA Penalties and Violations](#) Presented by ASLRRRA's Jo Strang, SVP Safety & Regulatory Policy; JR Gelnar, VP, Safety & Compliance; and Sarah Yurasko, General Counsel
- [FRA Regulatory & Program Requirements for Short Lines, Part 1](#) Presented by ASLRRRA's JR Gelnar, VP, Safety & Compliance
- [FRA Regulatory & Program Requirements for Short Lines, Part 2](#) Presented by ASLRRRA's JR Gelnar, VP, Safety & Compliance

Visit [aslrra.org/webinars](#) and select the On Demand Webinars button to view a complete list of all available recordings.

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

Industry Events and Announcements

Registration Open for 23rd Annual Railroad Environmental Conference in Hybrid Format

The 23rd annual Railroad Environmental Conference (RREC) will be presented this year in hybrid format, meaning that both in-person and online attendance will be possible. This will provide attendees the best of both worlds - being able to see each other in-person, while also providing quality presentations online to those who are unable to join in Champaign, IL. The conference includes over 60 presentations and will take place October 26-27, 2021.

Discounted Advance Registration Rate Available Until August 13: [Register Now](#)

[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.