

[*** If you are writing to a Member of the House of Representatives, use the draft on this page. If you are writing to a Member of the US Senate, use the draft on the NEXT page***]

[***Letter to a Member of the US House of Representatives***]

[***Date***]

The Honorable [***Representative's full name***]
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative [***Representative's last name***]:

I write to ask you to co-sponsor H.R. 1584, the Short Line Railroad Investment Act of 2007. This legislation will extend the Section 45G short line railroad rehabilitation tax credit. [****If the Congressman originally co-sponsored H.R. 876 in 2003-2004 (check list of co-sponsors) you can say: You supported the enactment of this tax credit in 2004 by co-sponsoring H.R. 876. It is my hope that you can support a continuation of the public benefits provided by Section 45G by co-sponsoring this legislation.****]

[****Briefly describe your railroad. For example: I am the President of the AB&C Railroad. My railroad serves important railroad customers in the cities of Jefferson, Madison, and Polk, such as the XYZ Co-op, and Smith's metal fabrication. These customers depend on our railroad to move products and raw materials.****]

Short line railroads like the [***insert name of your railroad***] operate nearly 50,000 miles of track across the country. Our railroads are small businesses. Many railroads like mine struggle to upgrade and maintain our infrastructure. That problem is made worse by the adoption of a heavier, 286,000-pound rail car by larger railroads and many rail customers. These heavier cars require our railroad to make ever greater investments in our track to preserve rail service for our customers.

[****If your railroad could not use Section 45G because of the AMT, let them know that this bill addresses that problem. For example: Over the last two years short line railroads across America made hundreds of millions of dollars in rail upgrades with the help of Section 45G. However, our railroad could not increase our track investments because of the Alternative Minimum Tax. H.R. 1584 will fix this problem by allowing our railroad to earn credits. If H.R. 1584 became law, our railroad could begin replacing worn rails on the line to Madison. These improvements would allow the XYZ Co-op to ship grain in heavier cars, lowering costs to local farmers. By co-sponsoring H.R. 1584 you will help additional customers in your district enjoy the benefits of Section 45G.****]

[****Most important part of the letter – you must talk about the benefits to your customers and railroad under the credit in 2005 and 2006. For example: Over the last two years our railroad has been able to improve our track and our customer service because of the****]

Section 45G credit. In 2005 we replaced 5,000 railroad ties on the branch to Jefferson, and in 2006 we began replacing worn rails on the line to Madison. These improvements will allow the XYZ Co-op to ship grain in heavier cars, lowering costs to local farmers. By co-sponsoring H.R. 1584 you will help additional customers in your district enjoy the benefits of Section 45G.***]

To co-sponsor H.R. 1584, please contact Diane Oakley with Rep. Pomeroy, Joanna Foust with Rep. Camp, or Alex Richard with Rep. Moran of Kansas.

Sincerely,

***Your Name, Title and
Organization***]

Letter to a Member of the US Senate]

Date]

The Honorable ***Senator's full name***]
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator ***Senator's last name***]:

I write to ask you to co-sponsor S. 881, the Short Line Railroad Investment Act of 2007. This legislation will extend the Section 45G short line railroad rehabilitation tax credit. ***If the Senator originally co-sponsored S. 1703 in 2003-2004 (check list of co-sponsors) you can say: You supported the enactment of this tax credit in 2004 by co-sponsoring S. 1703. It is my hope that you can support a continuation of the public benefits provided by Section 45G by co-sponsoring this legislation.***]

Briefly describe your railroad. For example: I am the President of the AB&C Railroad. My railroad serves important railroad customers in the cities of Jefferson, Madison, and Polk, such as the XYZ Co-op, and Smith's metal fabrication. These customers depend on our railroad to move products and raw materials.]

Short line railroads like the ***insert name of your railroad***] operate nearly 50,000 miles of track across the country. Our railroads are small businesses. Many railroads like mine struggle to upgrade and maintain our infrastructure. That problem is made worse by the adoption of a heavier, 286,000-pound rail car by larger railroads and many rail customers. These heavier cars require our railroad to make ever greater investments in our track to preserve rail service for our customers.

****If your railroad could not use Section 45G because of the AMT, let them know that this bill addresses that problem. For example: Over the last two years short line railroads across America made hundreds of millions of dollars in rail upgrades with the help of Section 45G. However, our railroad could not increase our track investments because of the Alternative Minimum Tax. S. 881 will fix this problem by allowing our railroad to earn credits. If S. 881 became law, our railroad could begin replacing worn rails on the line to Madison. These improvements would allow the XYZ Co-op to ship grain in heavier cars, lowering costs to local farmers. By co-sponsoring S. 881 you will help additional customers in your district enjoy the benefits of Section 45G.***]*

****Most important part of the letter – you must talk about the benefits to your customers and railroad under the credit in 2005 and 2006. For example: Over the last two years our railroad has been able to improve our track and our customer service because of the Section 45G credit. In 2005 we replaced 5,000 railroad ties on the branch to Jefferson, and in 2006 we began replacing worn rails on the line to Madison. These improvements will allow the XYZ Co-op to ship grain in heavier cars, lowering costs to local farmers. By co-sponsoring S. 881 you will help additional customers in your district enjoy the benefits of Section 45G.***]*

To co-sponsor S. 881, please contact Anna Taylor with Senator Blanche Lincoln or Mike Smith with Senator Gordon Smith.

Sincerely,

****Your Name, Title and Organization***]*