



American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

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ASLRRRA Deems Passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act a Historic Victory for the Short Line Industry

Sets Short Lines on a Path to Help Grow the Economy in Every Part of America

WASHINGTON – November 6, 2021 – In response last evening’s passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act by the U.S. House of Representatives, the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA), which represents the nation’s 600 small business freight railroads and hundreds of railroad suppliers, Chuck Baker, President of ASLRRRA, offers the following statement:

“Today marks a historic victory for the short line industry, the economies we support in large and small towns across America, and the thousands of industrial, manufacturing, energy, and agricultural customers we proudly serve daily. The passage of the IJJA brings an end to the Groundhog Day announcements by several administrations that the time to do an infrastructure bill is now, and instead ushers in an era of building that infrastructure. Short line railroads, our employees, and our contractors and suppliers are grateful for the significant increases to funding made available through CRISI, INFRA, RAISE, and grade crossing and grade separation programs – funding that we will aggressively compete for and then quickly put to good use, investing in game-changing infrastructure projects that will allow us to do our part in driving economic growth, improving safety, implementing innovative technology to drive efficiencies for our customers, and continuing to advance the many environmental benefits of rail.

As we noted when the bill came together in the Senate, this bipartisan legislation, the result of extensive negotiation and robust stakeholder input, artfully balances regulatory oversight without including overly burdensome and unnecessary operational mandates. We look forward to the President signing this bill into law and setting short lines on a path to help to grow the economy in every part of America, create and sustain career jobs at railroads and rail shippers alike, protect the environment, improve transportation safety, and reduce the burden of heavy freight on overcrowded and expensive-to-maintain highways.”

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About ASLRRRA - The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of the nation’s 600 short line and regional railroads and railroad supply company members in legislative and regulatory matters. Short lines operate 47,500 miles of track in 49 states, or approximately 29% of the national railroad network, touching in origination or termination one out of every five cars moving on the national railroad system, serving customers who otherwise would be cut off from the national railroad network. www.aslrra.org