



## American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

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### **ASLRRA Comments on Introduction of INVEST in America Act**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. – June 7, 2021** – In response to the introduction of the “Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act” or the “INVEST in America Act” on June 4, the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA), which represents the nation’s 600 small business freight railroads and hundreds of railroad suppliers, offers the following statement:

“We recognize the need for a large and transformational infrastructure investment to support the American economy and protect our environment long into the future, and believe there is an opportunity right now to accomplish this long-held bipartisan goal. We welcome the introduction of the INVEST in America Act by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee as an important step in this process,” said Chuck Baker, President, ASLRRA. “For small business freight railroads, the bill is a mixed bag. There are some beneficial funding opportunities, including an expanded CRISI grant program, but there are also a host of troubling and unnecessary operational mandates and multiple missed funding opportunities where short lines could help achieve the goals of a program, but are not included as eligible recipients. As this process advances, we urge both parties, both sides of the Capitol, and both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue to work together to produce a successful bipartisan surface transportation reauthorization bill, and we stand ready to work in good faith to help accomplish that goal. Short line railroads are eager to be a part of the solution for America.”

The bill was introduced by Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Chair of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit and Donald M. Payne, Jr. Chair of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials on Friday, June 4, 2021. The Committee is expected to mark up the bill on Wednesday, June 9, 2021.

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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](http://www.aslrra.org)