

## Railroad Day 2026 Training

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ASLRRA

# Three Primary Goals for Today

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## PRESENTATION GOALS

Understanding the following

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1

### Railroad Day Key Messages

Four issues - and ONLY these four

2

### Railroad Day Schedules

Review of Roles in Meetings, Schedule

3

### Social Media Support and Key Follow Ups

Both are critical for maximum impact

# Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors



## Platinum



## Gold



# Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors

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## Silver

Florida East Coast Railway, LLC

Pinsly Railroad Company

R.J. Corman Railroad Services

TNW Corporation

Wabtec

## Bronze

Herzog Railroad Services, Inc.

Mickelson & Co.

Ogborn Consulting Group

Omaha Track, Inc.

# Thank You to Our Participating Organizations



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# Four Key Messages for 2026

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- ✔ MODERNIZE THE 45G SHORT LINE MAINTENANCE TAX CREDIT
- ✔ SUPPORT CRITICAL RAIL SAFETY GRANTS & ENCOURAGE INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT
- ✔ STREAMLINE FEDERAL PERMITTING TO ACCELERATE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS
- ✔ RESTORE HTF TO A USER-PAY SYSTEM AND OPPOSE LONGER & HEAVIER TRUCKS

# Four Key Messages for 2026

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## WHAT WE WILL NOT BE TALKING ABOUT IN THESE MEETINGS:

- ✔ Tariffs
- ✔ Immigration
- ✔ Safety Bill
- ✔ Anything else other than our four issue areas!

However, please note any questions raised in meeting survey notes, so that appropriate follow up can happen!

# Modernize the 45G Short Line Maintenance Tax Credit

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The 45G tax credit has been instrumental in improving safety on short line railroads, addressing the leading cause of derailments - worn out track and ties.

- ✔ **Spurred more than \$8B in private infrastructure spending** - First enacted in 2005, and made permanent in 2020
- ✔ **The credit offers \$.40 per mile, capped at \$3500 per mile** - Over time, inflation has eroded the credit's impact.

To continue to drive investment against the \$12B backlog, improve safety on short lines, and drive additional economic growth, the credit must be modernized to address inflation.

# Modernize the 45G Short Line Maintenance Tax Credit



**TAKE ACTION:** Cosponsor and support H.R. 516 and S. 1532, the 45G Tax Credit Modernization Act.

- ✔ Increases the per-mile cap to an inflation adjusted \$6100 per mile
- ✔ Includes all short line miles
- ✔ Indexes the cap to inflation moving forward

Lead Sponsors:

H.R. 516

Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA)

Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA)

S. 1532

Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID)

Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR)

# Support Critical Rail Safety Grant Programs/Encourage Innovation and Deployment of Technology

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Freight is the safest way to move freight over land. Federal grant programs are a critical source of capital to continue to improve safety.

- ✔ **CRISI** – program success has been driven by guaranteed funding. Particularly critical program for short lines, who are directly eligible
- ✔ **RCE & SECTION 130** – provide funding at grade crossings, improving safety
- ✔ **TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION**– Encourage testing and deployment of technologies that will improve safety
- ✔ **MAINTAIN ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS**– allows railroads to forward plan

**TAKE ACTION:** Guarantee robust, long-term funding for these programs in the next Surface Transportation bill.

# Streamline Federal Permitting to Accelerate Infrastructure Projects



Railroads consistently invest in improvements - bridges, terminals, track - but permitting delays can stall projects that enhance safety and efficiency.

- ✔ **PROVIDE GREATER PREDICTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY** - allowing railroads to better plan investment and production timelines
- ✔ **EXPAND NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS** - where no significant impact anticipated
- ✔ **EXPAND USE OF PRE-AWARD AUTHORITY & BUNDLE LIKE CEs** - allows railroads to begin critical project planning expenses
- ✔ **EXEMPT RAILROADS FROM SECTION 106 REQUIREMENTS** - removing time consuming and unnecessary ACHP review consistent with interstate highways as directed in FAST Act.

**TAKE ACTION:** Congress should modernize permitting rules and encourage timely environmental reviews that reflect a project's relative complexity.

# Restore the HTF to a User-based System and Oppose Truck Size and Weight Increases

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Railroads invest more than \$20B annually in their own infrastructure, removing millions of trucks from our highways and reducing the burden on taxpayers.

- ✔ **HEAVY TRUCKS PLACE SIGNIFICANT WEAR AND TEAR ON PUBLICLY FUNDED HIGHWAYS**
  - creating costs that are not fully recovered by user fees
  - threatening the integrity of roads and sustainability of HTF
- ✔ **INCREASING TRUCK SIZE & WEIGHT MAKES MATTERS WORSE**
  - more and larger trucks = more damage, further straining HTF
  - undermines the competitive balance with freight railroads

**TAKE ACTION:** Congress should oppose increases in federal truck size and weight limits until trucks pay their fare share.

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# Railroad Day Schedule

## Timeline

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### **7:00 - 9:00 a.m. - PICK UP BADGES AND MATERIALS**

The Monocle Restaurant (107 D Street NE, Washington, D.C. - on the Senate side of the Capitol campus)

### **9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - MEETINGS ON THE HILL**

### **5:00 - 7:00 p.m. - VIP/ELECTED OFFICIALS RECEPTION**

Rayburn Cafeteria (in Rayburn House Office Building)

# Railroad Day Schedule

## Your Schedule

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### YOUR SCHEDULE:

- ✓ **Will be delivered via Outlook Invitations on Tuesday, March 3** We have tried hard to accommodate all meeting requests.
- ✓ **You have been placed in some meetings strategically** to ensure that key offices hear our perspective.
- ✓ **It is critical that you complete your schedule** - some meetings have only a handful of participants

# Quick Review of Meeting Roles & Responsibilities

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## ROLE OF THE MEETING LEADER:

- ✔ **Kicks off the meeting** - handles intros and goes over meeting agenda. Keeps the discussion on track.
- ✔ **Relies on participants** - to share a specific area of expertise or story that would help support one of the key talking points.
- ✔ **Is responsible for follow ups from the meeting** - this includes survey post meeting and social media participation.

# Quick Review of Meeting Roles & Responsibilities

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## ROLE OF A MEETING PARTICIPANT:

- ✔ **Connect with a short 1-minute intro** - who you represent, the impact of your company on the industry and the office. For short lines, thank the office if they have sponsored 45G (refer to handout)
- ✔ **Each attendees should cover one talking point** - communicate with the meeting leader if you have expertise or story to support an issue
- ✔ **Invite the office to engage** - with a site visit
- ✔ **Invite the office to the VIP Reception** - invitations included with your packets

# Railroad Day Schedule

## Last Minute Updates

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### LAST MINUTE CHANGES WILL BE COMMUNICATED:

- ✔ **“Know Before You Go” E-mail** - Will be delivered via email on Monday, March 2, 2026
- ✔ **Email will Include** - any late-breaking news, social media cheat sheet, schedule of events, links to training materials, and link to meeting survey.
- ✔ **Any last-minute meeting changes** - will be provided at the breakfast check in at the Monocle, or will be delivered via Outlook Invitation

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# Social Media Support & Key Follow Ups

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## ELEVATE OUR PRESENCE ON MARCH 4 WITH SOCIAL MEDIA:

- ✔ **Staff from supporting organizations will be driving engagement** - please post throughout the day - LinkedIn and X are preferred
- ✔ **Utilize the Social Media Cheat Sheet** - on hand at the Monocle, and also on our webpage under training
- ✔ **Use key hashtags** - #RailDay2026, #FreightRail, #railchampions and the office (included in your meeting invitation) - example @Reptroynehls
- ✔ **Use Social Media images on your feeds** - the day of, or in advance
- ✔ **Encourage colleagues at home to also take part** - can post a supportive message

<https://www.aslrra.org/events/railroad-day-on-capitol-hill/social-media/>

# Social Media Support & Key Follow Ups



## Examples from 2025

**Kristin Bevil** @kristinbevil · May 7, 2025

Thank you @SenatorWicker for your support of @PinslyRRCo Grenada Railroad and all Mississippi short lines 🚂 Smart tax policy like 45G Tax Credit Modernization Act fuels rail investment - and Mississippi reaps the benefits. #railchampions #railday2025 #freightrail



6 likes, 130 retweets

X - Great use of tags!

**Jonathan Whitehead** Eastern Region Sales & Business Development Manager at Vian... 9mo ·

From rural towns to bustling cities, freight rail is the backbone of American commerce. On #RailDay2025, we're meeting with lawmakers to advocate for policies that keep our railroads safe, efficient, and competitive. Together, we drive progress. #RailChampions



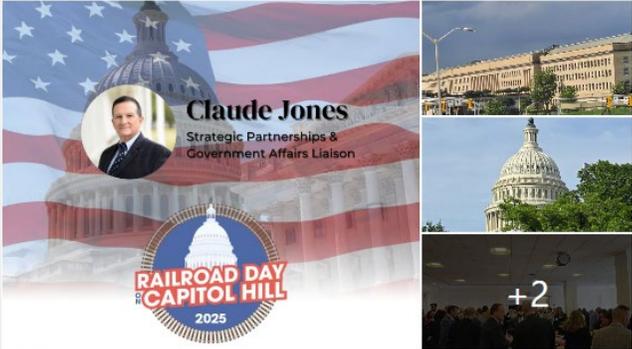
26 likes, 2 comments, 1 repost

LinkedIn - used our pre-done messaging!

**Stahl Recruiting Executive Search** 4,354 followers 9mo · Edited ·

Fantastic energy on Capitol Hill last week for #RailroadDay2025 🌟 It was impressive to see over 300 rail industry professionals come together to engage with our elected policy makers. The welcoming reception and genuine interest shown by Senators, Representatives, and their staff in understanding the challenges and opportunities within the rail sector were truly valuable. Their grasp on issues like capitalization, job creation, and safety was evident. A successful day of advocacy and connection. #railindustryadvocacy #policyengagement #transportation #railday2025 #railchampions - CLAUDE JONES #Strategic #Partnerships #Advocate Andrew J. Stahl, Owner Wael M Abdelmonem

Stahlrecruiting.com #executivesearch #honesty #integrity #ethics



8 likes, +2 more

Post RR Day Wrap Up

# Social Media Support & Key Follow Ups

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## KEY FOLLOW UPS

- ✔ **Communicate results through online form** – all participants will receive a link at the end of day on Wednesday.  
*New this year, submit your feedback forms by end of day Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> to be eligible to win a \$200 Amazon gift card!*
- ✔ **Send a thank you** – soon after returning home
- ✔ **Invite staff to your facility** – seeing in person really drives the point home
- ✔ **Use Social Media images on your feeds** – the day of, or in advance

Questions?

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## DAY OF CONTACTS:

Nicole Brewin ([nbrewin@aslrra.org](mailto:nbrewin@aslrra.org))  
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