



American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

50 F Street, NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20001
aslrra@aslrra.org
www.aslrra.org

Contact:

Amy Krouse
akrouse@aslrra.org
(Cell) 312-371-6947
(Direct) 202-585-3438

Short Line Railroad Relief Act Responds to Need for Assistance in Disaster Recovery

WASHINGTON, December 16, 2022 – The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA), representing the nation’s 600 short line railroads and their suppliers, strongly supports H.R. 9581, the [Short Line Railroad Relief Act](#), introduced by Representative Byron Donalds (R-FL) and cosponsored by Representatives Mike Bost (R-IL), Rodney Davis (R-IL), Randy Feenstra (R-IA), Michael Guest (R-MS), Troy Nehls (R-TX) and Steven Palazzo (R-MS).

The bill would authorize emergency disaster relief funding resources for short line railroads through the United States Department of Transportation. Current federal programs fail to provide small business short line railroads with immediate relief after natural disasters, but do offer disaster relief benefits to other transportation modes, such as highways and transit.

“Short lines are the critical first and last mile of our nation’s freight rail system, connecting small town and rural America to the U.S. and world economies. When a natural disaster strikes, it is critical that transportation infrastructure get back up and running as soon as possible, allowing for relief efforts to flow in and materials to flow out of affected areas. Short line railroads play a critical transportation role, yet limited federal disaster relief options are available beyond small loans, whereas massive disaster relief resources are available for highways and transit,” stated Chuck Baker, President, ASLRRA. “The Short Line

Railroad Relief Act would allow the USDOT to provide speedy and significant grant funding to short line railroads following a disaster, so they can help rebuild the local economy instead of being forced to end operations, abandoning customers and the communities they serve.”

“Representative Donalds was spurred into action by the devastation to the Seminole Gulf Railway in his district, caused by Hurricane Ian earlier this year. The concern however is applicable nationwide, resulting in Congressional support throughout the country for this effort. We applaud each of the cosponsoring members of Congress for their leadership.”

###

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