

# International Union of Operating Engineers

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

September 20, 2023

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The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

The International Union of Operating Engineers supports the Short Line Railroad Relief Act, H.R. 3782, legislations that authorizes the creation of a fund to immediately assist short line railroads impacted by hurricanes, natural disasters, and other extreme weather events.

The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) is one of North America's leading construction unions, representing over 400,000 hardworking men and women in the United States and Canada. Most members of the IUOE work in the construction sector, operating and maintaining heavy equipment; thousands of us are employed building the nation's roads, bridges, highways, railroads, and other transportation infrastructure.

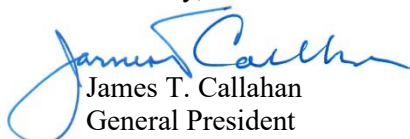
The nation's six-hundred short line freight railroads are the first and last mile between 10,000 customers and the global economy. Their critical rail infrastructure serves businesses in energy, manufacturing, minerals, metals, agriculture, and other sectors, moving their products safely and efficiently. But current federal programs fail to provide short line railroads with immediate relief after natural disasters, sometimes resulting in services shutting down, disrupting the supply chain, and hurting small businesses and local economies.

The Short Line Railroad Relief Act would authorize the establishment of a disaster-relief program to provide immediate financial assistance to America's short line railroads. There is no substitute for the vital role that short line railroads play in the nation's economic well-being, and they should be protected in the case of natural disasters to keep goods and services moving.

The International Union of Operating Engineers respectfully requests that you advance H.R. 3782. We look forward to collaborating with you and other leaders to pass the Short Line Railroad Relief Act.

Thank you for your consideration and continued leadership on these critical infrastructure matters.

Sincerely,

  
James T. Callahan  
General President

