



## American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

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### **Freight Railroad Industry Zooms in for Railroad Day 2022**

**WASHINGTON – March 9, 2022** – Today and tomorrow, more than 350 railroad industry employees will meet virtually with 220+ Congressional Offices, exercising their first Amendment right to petition their government and tell their story. The annual gathering of freight rail professionals, known as Railroad Day on Capitol Hill, has been held for nearly twenty years. Railroad Day is the one time each year that the entire freight rail industry, including Class I railroads, short line railroads, railroad labor, railroad suppliers and contractors, and railroad customers meet with their elected officials together as one unified force.

“Railroad Day on the Hill is a time-honored tradition that our industry looks forward to each year,” said Chuck Baker, President of the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, which represents the industry’s 600 short lines and their suppliers. “This year, we will thank Congress for the meaningful investment levels provided for in the IJJA/BIL and focus on what’s next. We’ll ask that key programs such as CRISI are appropriated at the fully authorized levels and that new programs such as the grade separation program be implemented in a streamlined fashion, resulting in rail traffic growth, a reduced environment impact, and improved safety. We will also ask Congress to support a balanced regulatory environment that allows us to be nimble enough to provide cost efficient service our customers, and that federal policy doesn’t tilt the scale against rail towards other transportation modes.”

This year, the industry will call upon Congress to:

- Support full funding and streamlined implementation of the IIA to improve efficiencies, safety and environmentally friendly freight transportation.
- Preserve balanced economic regulation and refrain from efforts that would adversely impact the railroads' ability to invest now and into the future.
- Oppose all efforts to increase truck length or weight limits, including any pilot programs or special exemptions for particular commodities.

“Each meeting is an opportunity to illuminate the impacts of legislative actions that affect the railroads and the thousands of customers and communities that depend on our service,” continued Baker. “The constituents in these meetings will be able to point to specific district-level and statewide impacts. In the weeks ahead, there will be important conversations on both FY22 and FY23 appropriations in Congress and at the Surface Transportation Board on potential new economic regulations. Railroad Day on the Hill meetings offer Congressional staff an opportunity to better understand the factors that drive or hinder the ability of the freight rail industry to serve communities, providing critical links between thousands of customers and the domestic and global economies, and how the industry advances environmental and safety solutions and works to remove supply chain bottlenecks.”

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**About ASLRRA** - The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) 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)