



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

FREIGHT RAILROADS MEET WITH U.S. CONGRESS ON MAY 7

Railroad Day on Capitol Hill: Railroads and Suppliers Continue a 25+ Year Tradition as Citizen Lobbyists

WASHINGTON – May 7, 2025 – Today the freight railroad industry – Class I's, short lines, suppliers and contractors to the industry, and the major Associations that represent them - will participate in a 25+ year tradition, Railroad Day on Capitol Hill. Participants will meet with 304 offices to ensure Congress understands their perspective when considering important legislation including Surface Transportation reauthorization, tax, and annual appropriations.

“This time-honored tradition, which has continued without interruption including online through the COVID years, is bringing 327 citizen lobbyists to Washington today to exercise their first Amendment right to petition their government and tell their story,” said Chuck Baker, President of the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, which represents the nation’s more than 600 short lines, and their suppliers. “With important legislation being taken up in the coming months, it is the right time to educate lawmakers about the actions they can take to ensure that the nation’s freight rail system continues to be a growth engine, delivering safe and efficient service for tens of thousands of energy, agriculture, manufacturing, and industrial customers across the nation.”

This year, the industry will call upon Congress to:

- Maintain and extend tax policies that incentivize private investment in infrastructure, such as the 45G tax credit and corporate SALT deductions.

- Restore the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) to a user-based system and oppose increases to truck size and weight limits.
- Advance permitting reforms that provide greater transparency and predictability while ensuring timely, focused environmental reviews.
- Guarantee full and consistent funding for safety-enhancing rail grant programs, including the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI), Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) and Section 130 programs.

“In the coming weeks, Congress will be taking up FY26 Appropriations, a tax bill, and beginning to outline priorities for a Surface Transportation bill reauthorization. Railroad Day on Capitol Hill is an opportune time for our industry to put a face on the entities that their actions will impact, making connections that will be invaluable to the industry and to Congress as it considers legislation that will produce powerful outcomes for the public,” said Baker.

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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