For Immediate Release

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ASLRRA Honors Individuals for Career Dedication to Railroad Safety

Jeremy Kramer, Louisville and Indiana Railroad Company, Safety Person of the Year
Mitch Harris, Rio Grande Pacific Corporation, Safety Professional of the Year

Nashville, Tenn. – April 9, 2018 – The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) today honored two outstanding individuals for their career commitment to safety compliance and culture at the 2018 CONNECTIONS Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

“Safety above all else is the mantra of our industry, and particularly the short line railroads who have achieved a record 520 days fatality-free. It is through the efforts of individuals such as Jeremy Kramer and Mitch Harris making the safe choices day in and day out, demanding the same level of commitment from their peers, that this can happen,” said Linda Bauer Darr, President of ASLRRA. “We are honored to recognize their career and personal commitment to ‘safety first’.”

Jeremy Kramer, Director of Transportation, Louisville & Indiana Railroad (LIRC), an Anacostia Rail Holdings Company, was honored as Safety Person of the Year. This award recognizes an employee of a member railroad who is not a career safety professional, has no reportable
personal injuries, works with their company to make safety programs effective, exhibits a high
degree of safety awareness, and contributes off-duty time to activities promoting safety
awareness and initiatives in the community.

In a 15-year railroad career distinguished by a steady growth of responsibility Mr. Kramer has
demonstrated a consistent and passionate dedication to safety. Throughout, he has worked
injury-free supporting the development of a robust safety culture and strong safety
performance among employees, communities, first responders and schools along the 106-mile
rail line.

Mr. Kramer has volunteered his time with Operation Lifesaver, and has worked with area first
responders in a variety of programs such as Trauma Camp – a training event for area first
responders in a mock train vs. vehicle incident; the Hazmat Safety Train, which provides
classroom education and hands-on training to enhance their effectiveness in response to
potential railcar accidents and chemical releases; and Officer on a Train, an effort to prevent
grade-crossing and trespasser incidents.

In addition to his community, Kramer has raised the safety culture bar with LIRC contractors
who support the operation.

In his letter of nomination, LIRC’s President, John Goldman said, “You often can tell a lot about
a leader by how their direct reports conduct themselves. Jeremy has supported the
development of a very motivated and professional team at LIRC. The team consistently
demonstrates a “can do” attitude that reflects Jeremy’s attitude and willingness to think
outside the box.”

The Safety Professional of the Year was awarded to Mitch Harris, Director Safety, Training and
Regulatory Compliance for the Rio Grande Pacific Corporation (RGPC) and its short line
railroads. The Safety Professional of the Year is awarded each year to the railroad management
employee who demonstrates an exceptional work ethic and dedication to safety.
Mr. Harris’ railroad career began as a conductor and engineer. His passion for safety was evident even then as a peer trainer. At the RPGC, Harris has implemented safety initiatives that have lowered incident and accident statistics to the point that they are well under the Federal Railroad Administration’s (FRA) frequency rates for short line railroads. He works tirelessly to ensure that employees are abreast of all new rules and regulations.

Mitch also serves the ASLRRA as Vice Chair of the Safety and Training Committee, and as an alternate member of FRA’s Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC).

In his letter of nomination, Robert Bach, President and Chief Operating Officer, Rio Grande Pacific Corporation writes of Harris, “Mitch is always available to answer a call from anyone – from the CEO to the newest trainman on the roster. He never fails to perform the research and provide the information that is requested. He has worked diligently for RGPC and ALSRRA to improve railroad safety culture. The results of his efforts are evident in the fact that so many of our railroads consistently receive ASLRRA’s Jake Award with Distinction for safety.”

To be honored with a Jake Award, an ASLRRA member railroad must perform better than the Class II and III industry average injury frequency rate as reported by the FRA during the prior year. Jake Award winners “with distinction” also have an FRA-reported injury-free performance during the same time. Jake Awards are awarded at ASLRRA’s regional fall conferences.

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, touching in origination or termination one out of every four cars moving on the national railroad system, serving customers who otherwise would be cut off from the national railroad network.