Railroad Industry Converges on Washington May 8, 2019

WASHINGTON – May 7, 2019 – On Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 550 railroad industry professionals from across the nation will participate in Railroad Day on Capitol Hill. More than 430 representatives from industry, labor, Class I railroads, Short Line railroads, shippers and manufacturers that support the rail industry will visit with 350 Congressional Offices, producing over 2,925 handshakes.

“This is the single day that the whole industry comes together to exercise our first amendment rights, to petition our government on issues that are important to us and to the customers and communities we serve,” said Chuck Baker, President of the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, which represents the industry’s 600 short lines and their suppliers. “Freight rail is critical to America’s continued growth and prosperity, supporting millions of jobs at agricultural, manufacturing, and energy facilities across the country. Our issues are ones that Congress should care about – spurring economic growth, proving safe and environmentally friendly transportation, and ensuring every industry and geography has access to the U.S. and global economy.”

First begun twenty years ago, Railroad Day has become one of the most organized and comprehensive industry days in Washington, one that members of Congress look forward to annually. This year, industry members will call on Congress to:

- Extend the Short Line Tax Credit (45G), ensuring that the nation’s 600 small business railroads can invest more of their private money in infrastructure, keeping small town and rural America connected to the U.S. economy;
• Oppose any increases to truck size or length;
• Preserve the balanced economic regulation of the railroad industry.

“Railroad Day provides the opportunity for our members and the industry to tell their very powerful story. Our nation’s freight rail system is the envy of the world, providing safe and efficient rail service, moving goods from small town and rural America across the country, and into the global economy,” continued Baker. “Railroad Day sets the table for substantive conversations with Congress on a variety of issues that will confront them in the back half of 2019 including infrastructure, surface transportation reauthorization, appropriations, trade and more.”

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.