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## Short Line Safety Institute Awarded PHMSA Grant to Create Hazardous Materials Training Academy

WASHINGTON – August 28, 2017 – The Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI) has been awarded a \$500,000 grant by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to create a Hazardous Materials Training Academy. The SLSI is uniquely positioned to provide Hazmat education and training to the short line and regional railroad industry with its experience in assessing the strengths and needs of small business railroads that are currently carrying hazmat.

“Small railroads will greatly benefit from the expertise and resources the Hazardous Materials Training Academy will provide. Through the SLSI, the Academy will provide classroom training, hands-on instruction, response exercises, and support individual railroads in training their personnel,” said Tom Murta, Executive Director, SLSI. “Our program will enhance the training currently provided in the industry. We look forward to offering a meaningful solution to an industry challenge.”

Murta underscored the value of partnering with industry experts, emergency response personnel, and small railroads to ensure a sustainable approach to the training needs of the rail industry.

The PHMSA grant, part of \$4million in grants for instructor training announced by U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao earlier this week, falls under the federal Hazardous Materials Instructor Training (HMIT) and Supplemental Public Sector Training (SPST) programs for fiscal-year 2017. HMIT grants fund the training of instructors who then train private-sector hazardous materials employees. SPST grants fund national nonprofit fire service organizations to train instructors to conduct hazardous materials response training for local responders.

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**About SLSI** - The Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI) is a non-profit corporation that conducts safety culture assessments and is the educational, training and research source for short line and regional railroads concerning safety culture. SLSI will heighten the intensity of safety culture focus, and involve short line and regional railroads and their management by combining ongoing assessments, feedback, communication, and recommended improvements and best practices. SLSI provides a variety of education programming, from in-person interactive workshops, to online webinars, to helpful tips for Safety Briefings. [www.shortlinesafety.org](http://www.shortlinesafety.org), [@shortlinesafety](https://twitter.com/shortlinesafety), [www.facebook.com/shortlinesafety](https://www.facebook.com/shortlinesafety).