Senate Task Force Reports Confirm Need for Certainty in Tax Policy

Business Cost Recovery Task Force Co-Leads Call Out 45G as Worthy of Permanence

WASHINGTON, August 14, 2019 – The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) issued the following statement regarding the release of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee taskforce reports that examined more than 40 temporary tax provisions that expired, or will expire, between December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2019. The Business Cost Recovery Task Force evaluated six tax credits including the Short Line Tax Credit (45G). In their introduction of the report, Task Force Co-Leads Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) stated, “two in particular have proven on their merits to receive a permanent extension – Section 45G and Section 179D.”

“We’re pleased with the recommendation of the Business Recovery Task Force and encouraged by Grassley and Wyden’s strong statements about the need for permanent solutions to provide certainty to families, businesses, and communities. Congress must act now, as continued delays only provide more reticence to invest as businesses await a decision,” said Chuck Baker, President of ASLRRRA. “Our small business railroads depend on the 45G tax credit to maximize their investment, and the benefits of these investments are far-reaching, including providing safe, cost-effective and environmentally friendly transportation for companies in rural and small-town America. The residual benefits of dollars spent on
railroad infrastructure include employment and growth in the railroad supplier community and in the regional economies as more businesses locate because of rail options.”

In addition to Crapo and Cardin, the Business Cost Recovery Task Force included Senators Todd Young (R-IN) and Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), and U.S. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR), who served as ex-officio members.

# # #

About ASLRRA - The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of the nation’s 603 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