



50 F Street, NW., Suite 7020
Washington, DC 20001
www.shortlinesafety.org

Contact:

Amy Krouse

akrouse@aslrta.org

(Cell) 312-371-6947

(Direct) 202-585-3438

Short Line Safety Institute Selects Murta as Executive Director

WASHINGTON, D.C. – July 5, 2017 – The Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI) today announced the selection of Thomas “Tom” Murta as its Executive Director. Murta will join the organization on July 10, 2017.

“Tom comes to the SLSI with significant industry knowledge in the areas of compliance assessment, risk reduction, crisis management and emergency planning. In addition to his rail expertise, Tom has experience working in and with government agencies as well as serving on not-for-profit boards, which will provide important context for his work in taking the Safety Institute to the next level,” said Linda Bauer Darr, President of the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) and SLSI Board of Directors member.

Murta most recently served as Assistant Vice President of Safety and Operations Compliance for CSX Transportation, one of North America's largest freight railroads with operations in 23 states and two Canadian provinces. Murta held a variety of positions at CSX spanning his 24 years with the company including positions responsible for safety and compliance, hazardous materials systems, environmental compliance, and infrastructure. Prior to CSX, Murta spent six years with the Kentucky Department of

Natural Resources. He holds a BS in Geology & Environmental Science from Morehead University, and a Masters in Public Administration from Kentucky State University. Murta is also the recipient of several industry awards and recognition.

“Tom has been a valued member of the SLSI Advisory Board, sharing his deep industry knowledge – particularly related to HazMat movement,” said Peter V. “Doc” Claussen, Jr., Vice Chair of Gulf & Ohio Railways, Inc., and Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Short Line Safety Institute. “Ron Hynes, our first Executive Director, was critical in guiding the Institute from a project to a full-scale operation. Tom will hit the ground running, with full knowledge of where we have been, and a vision for where we want to go.”

The Short Line Safety Institute began a search last month, following the departure of Hynes.

“I am thrilled to be selected to move the Short Line Safety Institute forward,” said Murta. “I’m committed to achieving the goals of SLSI, including being the industry-recognized leader in safety culture assessments, developing innovative training to assist short lines in continuous improvement of safety culture, and guiding research to identify additional areas of work.”

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About SLSI - The Short Line Safety Institute 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. The Institute 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. www.shortlinesafety.org, [@shortlinesafety](https://www.facebook.com/shortlinesafety), www.facebook.com/shortlinesafety