



American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

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

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Amy Krouse
akrouse@aslrra.org
(Cell) 312-371-6947
(Direct) 202-585-3438

SMALL RAILROADS CALL ON SUBCOMMITTEE TO SUPPORT REGULATIONS THAT ARE COST AND BENEFIT FOCUSED

Darr calls for regulations that provide proven safety benefits, cautions against a one-size-fits-all approach

Washington, DC – APRIL 26, 2017 – This morning, Linda Bauer Darr, President of the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA), presented the small business railroad perspective on the regulatory environment to the House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.

“We need regulations that are more efficient, more goal oriented, less reliant on a one size fits all mindset, and much more focused on costs and benefits,” stated Darr.

Darr represented the 600 short line and regional railroads in the United States. During her testimony, Darr outlined three unique characteristics – size (small businesses with less than 30 employees on average), capital needs (25-33% of annual revenues), and operating

requirements (operating in small geographic areas, at slow speeds, with predictable work schedules, interchanges, and delivery), that make the application of many regulations overly burdensome to short line and regional railroads.

“We understand the need to make railroading as safe as possible and we understand government has an obligation to step in when necessary. But government also has an obligation to step in responsibly. Too often government regulation forces companies to spend huge sums of money on solutions that don’t solve much,” said Darr. “Most damaging are the kind of one size fits all regulations that provide no basis for the presumed benefits and that ignore our unique operating characteristics.”

The subcommittee hearing, “Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: the State of Railroad, Pipeline, and Hazardous Materials Safety Regulations and Opportunities for Reform”, was convened to discuss the progress of Congressional mandates, including provisions of the Fixing American’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

About ASLRRRA - The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) 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 50,000 miles of track in 49 states, or approximately 38% of the national railroad network, 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.