Freight Rail Infrastructure Policies

Freight Rail Policy Stance: Congress should enact policies that ensure a healthy, multimodal infrastructure network, maintained through sustained investments by those who use the infrastructure.

Why This Matters: Without the ability to make massive private investments, the freight railroad network would suffer along with all the companies and industries that rely on it.

The U.S. freight rail network moves the raw goods and finished products that fuel the American economy. This critical, efficient and cost-effective transportation system is among the best in the world because of the billions of dollars railroads pour back into the network each year.

How is the money used?

- For better tracks and locomotives to make other industries more globally competitive.
- For investments in new technology and operations that ensure the industry continues to be safe.
- For improved freight car designs and more efficient locomotives to reduce energy consumption, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

With the U.S. Department of Transportation expecting freight rail traffic to grow 40% over the next 30 years, railroads must be able to continue privately investing in their infrastructure. Such private investments are the only way to maintain world-class service into the future.

At a Glance

- **Highway Trust Fund**
  The current Highway Trust Fund does not cover the costs to sustain and repair the nation's deteriorating bridges and roads, leaving taxpayers to pay billions each year in subsidies to highway users.
- **Environmental Permitting**
  Delays in permitting slow down the modernization of rail infrastructure and cost the rail industry billions of dollars each year, which could otherwise be invested back into the network.
- **Passenger Rail**
  Expanding passenger rail operations over the nation's freight rail network involves significant opportunities and challenges.
- **Section 130 Grade Crossing Funding**
  The freight rail industry supports dedicated funding for the Section 130 program, a federal safety effort to protect the motoring public from grade crossing accidents.