

Freight Rail

CREATING JOBS MOVING THE ECONOMY

Investing in the rail network boosts the nation's economy.

Supporting a healthy freight rail network is key to job growth and continued economic recovery. Freight rail contributes nearly \$265 billion in economic activity annually. This translates into jobs all across the country and in every sector of the economy.

- Every rail job supports another 4.5 jobs somewhere else in the economy. Railroad business activities and buying power support 1.2 million jobs across the broader economy.
- Railroads are expected to spend an estimated \$26 billion in 2014 on their infrastructure and equipment - more than most states. In fact, freight railroads have invested \$550 billion of private capital since 1980.
- Every dollar of rail infrastructure investment that adds new rail system capacity generates more than \$3 in total economic output.
- Every \$1 billion of new rail investment creates 20,000 jobs.

Freight rail is the engine to keep our economy strong.

Affordable and efficient transportation is critical to our economy. Freight rail provides a vital link for millions of American jobs - connecting farmers, miners, and manufacturers to markets across the country and around the world.

- From the food on our tables to the cars we drive to the shoes on our feet, railroads account for over 40 percent of the nation's intercity freight volume - more than any other transportation mode.
- Railroads account for approximately one third of all US exports.
- As the economy continues to recover, industrial output, housing starts, retail sales and freight rail traffic rise with it.

FAST FACTS: RAILROADS SAVE AMERICA MONEY

- Average US rail rates (per ton-mile) are among the lowest in the world, according to World Bank data and other sources. US rates are lower than rates in Russia and China and less than half of most European countries.
- Average rail rates, adjusted for inflation, are 42 percent lower than they were in 1981. The average rail shipper can move nearly twice as much freight today for the same price it paid 30 years ago.
- A few years ago, AASHTO estimated that if all freight traffic were shifted to trucks, transportation costs would jump by almost \$69 billion a year. Adjusted for increased freight volume and inflation, that figure is probably closer to \$100 billion per year today.

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Conserving fuel, mitigating pollution.

Freight rail is the cleanest, most efficient, and most environmentally sound way to move freight.

- One freight train can move a ton of freight nearly 500 miles on a single gallon of fuel.
- Railroads are, on average, four times more fuel efficient than trucks. Moving freight by rail instead of truck lowers greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent.
- Freight rail accounts for less than one percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the US, according to the EPA - even though freight trains account for over 40 percent of intercity freight.
- New “genset” locomotives, which have several independent engines that turn on and off depending on need, are making freight rail even more fuel efficient.
- New locomotive emission standards issued by EPA in 2008 will cut emissions of various pollutants by up to 90 percent.

SINCE 1980, FREIGHT RAILROADS HAVE NEARLY DOUBLED THE AMOUNT OF FREIGHT THEY MOVE WHILE USING VIRTUALLY THE SAME AMOUNT OF FUEL.

Freight rail reduces congestion.

Highway congestion costs the US economy over \$121 billion each year in wasted fuel and time. Without freight rail, our highways would be even more congested.

- One train can haul several hundred truck trailers, taking them off the nation’s roads.

FAST FACTS: RAILROADS PROVIDE WELL-PAYING AMERICAN JOBS

- Freight railroads employ approximately 180,000 highly skilled workers.
- Every rail job supports another 4.5 jobs across the US, while railroad business and buying power support 1.2 million jobs across the broader economy.
- The average full-time railroad worker in 2011 earned wages and benefits of \$108,900. The average US employee saw average annual compensation of \$67,700 - 61 percent of the average railroader.
- Railroads are routinely listed as top “military-friendly employers.”

