



A Message from One Short Line Customer to Another: JOIN SAVING OUR SERVICE

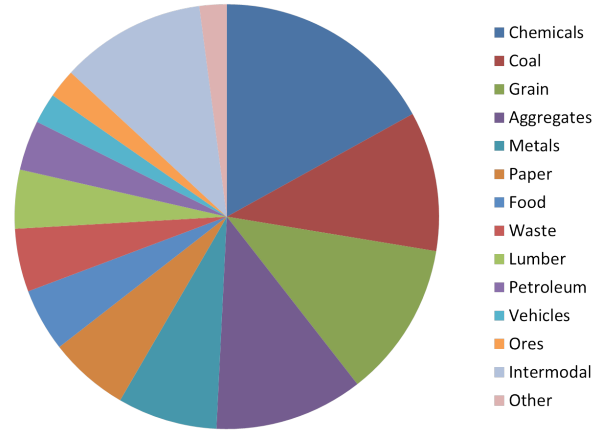
As companies served by a regional or short line railroad, we would be challenged to meet the needs of our customers without these railroads. We urge our fellow freight customers to support the Short Line Tax Credit by joining Saving Our Service at www.savingourservice.org.

Shippers and Short Line Freight Railroads - A Critical Partnership

Along the approximately 550 U.S. short line and regional freight railroads, there are thousands of businesses like ours that absolutely depend on the safe and efficient freight services these smaller railroads provide. With these short lines providing the “first and last mile” of connections to the national rail network, we are able to consistently serve our own customers, and better compete in our markets.

Short line and regional railroads directly serve a multitude of industry and agriculture shippers across the country. Everything from steel to corn, pasta to wine, scrap to automobiles is directly handled by smaller railroads.

Short Line and Regional Railroad Facts and Figures® 2014



The Challenge Facing Short Line Railroads – And The Solution

Most of these Class II and III railroads were formed from light density lines that were not kept up to modern standards. Older, lightweight rail, bridges in need of upgrading, and deteriorated crosstie conditions were the norm as short line railroads came into existence.

These poor conditions often resulted in a restricted weight limit being placed on the short line routes. Instead of the almost universal 286,000 lbs. per rail car weight limit on large railroads, many short lines must limit their car weights to 263,000 lbs.

To address this issue, Congress enacted the Short Line Tax Credit. This credit allows short line and regional freight railroads to invest more of their revenues back into their lines to improve their services. First enacted in 2005, the Short Line Tax Credit has been widely recognized as helping all U.S. industries, and associated jobs, dependent on smaller railroads for freight service. However, the Credit expires on December 31, 2016. Work is underway now to keep this critical credit continuously available for short lines to use to improve their services.

What You Can Do To Help

Get on board by joining Saving Our Service (SOS). SOS allows all of us to come together and express our support for continuation of the Short Line Tax Credit. There is no cost or obligation beyond allowing your company name and location to be listed as a supporter, and you can withdraw from membership at any time.

“Our customers demand from us a long-term relationship, and to serve them properly, we need our short line railroad to have the stability of a permanent Short Line Tax Credit.”
*Mark Marasco, President
Maple Leaf Distribution
Services, Inc.
Palmer, Massachusetts*