

# North Dakota Short Line Railroad Coalition



## Why short line freight railroads matter...



1. North Dakota's short line railroads operate a private freight rail network. Each short line railroad spends millions of dollars annually on track maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation to ensure safe and reliable service to rural communities in North Dakota.

2. North Dakota's short line railroads are fuel efficient. On average, a short line railroad in North Dakota can move one ton of freight 496 miles on one gallon of fuel. This is three to four times more fuel efficient than trucks.



3. North Dakota's short line railroads are innovative. Dedicated team members at each railroad use cutting edge technology, like Positive Train Control (PTC) and ultrasonic rail inspections, to ensure that the railroad can provide safe and reliable service.

4. North Dakota's short line railroads are safe. The last decade has been the safest in the history of the freight rail industry with railroad incidents reducing 31% during this time combined with the lowest level of personal injury rates in the history of the freight rail industry.



5. North Dakota's short line railroads are customer focused. Each railroad works closely with customers on tailored/specific service and industrial development to ensure that the customers that short lines serve and the communities in which they operate are successful.

*"Small railroad companies delivering **BIG** service to rural North Dakota"*

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## Why North Dakota should preserve the short line railroad network...



1. North Dakota's short line railroads are small and local job creators that serve hundreds of North Dakota rail customers. In total North Dakota's short line railroads move over 143,000 carloads annually which is the equivalent of 572,000 trucks.

2. There are four short line railroads in North Dakota that operate a total of 1,330 track miles across the state. In total, North Dakota short line railroads operate ~40% of the states total mainline rail network.



3. According to the North Dakota State Rail Plan, only 51% of the short line track mileage can handle the industry standard 286,000 lb. railcar loads. This means that ~650 miles on mainline short line track is not up to modern standards.

4. Rail replacement is a 50-70 year investment which requires a significant capital expenditures, and the rail traffic on some of the lines does not justify the capital expense required to maintain the rail to adequate and modern standards.



5. Rail replacement takes long-term planning and financial commitment. Delaying rail investment only further deteriorates the existing condition and potentially risks long-term rail access for some shippers and portions of North Dakota.

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