

## 03/04/2003 Moran Introduces Legislation to Assist Short Line Railroads

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SHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced the introduction of legislation to assist Kansas short line railroads. In Kansas and across the country, thousands of short line rail miles have been abandoned due to poor conditions. The Local Railroad Rehabilitation and Investment Act offers a tax incentive for short line railroads to make the improvements and investments needed to maintain and strengthen rail service.

"Short line railroads are crucial in connecting rural customers, shippers, small businesses and farmers in Kansas to the national rail network," Moran said. "This legislation will provide a valuable tool for our railroads to rebuild and improve as they work to meet our nation's increasing shipping needs."

Since 1980, approximately 2,500 miles of short line rail have been abandoned in Kansas. Because of the introduction of heavier rail cars, many more miles will have to be abandoned in the future if tracks are not upgraded.

Moran's legislation authorizes a federal tax credit for short line track maintenance costs over the next five years. This cost includes work on upgrading railroad tracks, roadbed, bridges and other related structures.

"Improving these rail lines gives our rural communities another option for hauling grain and other goods to more profitable markets," Moran concluded.

In 2000, Kansas exported 392,000 carloads of goods and imported 358,000 carloads, many of these on short line rail. Kansas ranks second in the nation in the amount of farm products it ships out of the state by rail.

Moran is a member of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Railroads.

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