

## Railroad Day on the Hill and equipment auction coming right up



Spring is just around the corner and another busy season is ready to get underway. From the look of the mountain of paper on my desk, I think it is going to be another hectic year. No complaints though, hectic years are a good thing. New construction in the energy fields, capital projects from the railroads and track maintenance work all seem to be well represented in the RFPs that are coming in.

The shortline railroad rehabilitation tax credit, which was just recently extended through Dec. 31, 2013, is responsible for a lot of this work being done on the shortlines. The tax credit is just one example of what we can accomplish when we work together through the NRC and our partner associations to express our needs to our federal legislators in Washington D.C. Railroad Day on Capitol Hill is coming right up on Thursday, March 14, 2013. This is our chance as a group to express to our representatives, senators and their staffs the necessity of supporting the rail industry. If you are not already registered, go to [www.aslrra.org](http://www.aslrra.org) to sign up for Railroad Day on the Hill. In addition to the shortline tax credit, we'll also be talking to Congress about maintaining a balanced regulatory environment for freight railroads, not allowing subsidized heavier and longer trucks to compete unfairly against railroads and endanger motorists on the highway and supporting funding for passenger rail improvements where they make sense. We are looking for a big turnout on March 14 to deliver our messages.

We should all also be developing relationships with our congressmen and their staffs throughout the year, which can be accomplished through phone calls, e-mail, visits to their district offices or by invitations to have them tour your facility or construction project. It is our responsibility as citizens to inform our congressman of our views on all issues. If you would like to arrange a visit from one of your congressmen to one of your

facilities, contact the NRC Grassroots Coordinator Tabitha Layman, at 202-715-1245 or [tlayman@nrcma.org](mailto:tlayman@nrcma.org). These visits will help demonstrate to your elected officials and the public the importance of the rail construction and maintenance industry to the national economy and will strengthen our relationships and influence with Congress. With Congress and with the public, "show and tell" is more effective than just "tell," so I'd encourage you to get in touch with Tabitha in the NRC office as soon as possible and she will work with you to set up a visit so you can show the country the importance of the work you are doing every day.

After Railroad Day on the Hill, our next big event is the NRC 2013 Rail Construction and Maintenance Equipment Auction, on Tuesday, April 16, 2013, at the Blackmon Auctions Yard in Little Rock, Ark. Equipment inspection will be available on Monday the 15th. If you have equipment you would like to consign (or donate) to the auction, contact Thomas Blackmon, Jr., at 501-664-4526 or [thomas@blackmonauctions.com](mailto:thomas@blackmonauctions.com) or fill out the auction interest form at <https://www.nrcma.org/go/auction>. A portion of the proceeds from the consigned equipment and 100 percent of the proceeds of the donated equipment, will go the NRC Safety, Training and Education Fund. Among other activities, the safety fund supports the ongoing production of the series of NRC Safety DVDs. Your company will receive tax deduction benefits.

And as long as you have your calendar out, the 2014 NRC conference will be held at the J.W. Marriott in Palm Desert, Calif., from Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014, through Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014. Updated information will eventually be posted on [www.nrcma.org/go/conference](http://www.nrcma.org/go/conference).

Until next time, work safe and keep those around you working safe.

by Terry Benton,  
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