



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

NOV 19 2013

Mr. Richard F. Timmons
President
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association
50 F Street NW, Suite 7020
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Timmons:

Thank you for your prompt response to my September 30, 2013, letter requesting that the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) summarize the steps that its members have made to implement each of the recommendations contained in the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's jointly issued Safety Advisory 2013-006.

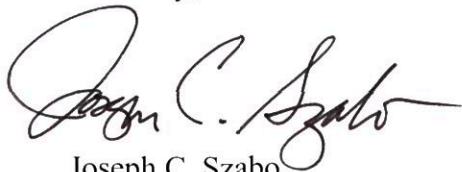
We carefully reviewed your response and appreciate that ASLRRA has no capacity to direct or assess the performance of individual railroads in their progress towards compliance and conformity with Federal regulations and guidelines. Although you don't have comprehensive capacity to assess how all of your members are implementing the guidance in the safety advisory, we appreciate your efforts to communicate with your membership about the safety advisory through your *Views and News* newsletter. We also appreciate ASLRRA's active participation in the three Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Working Groups that were established to address the transportation of hazardous materials, train securement, and appropriate crew size.

Regarding appropriate crew size, we appreciate the statistics that ASLRRA provided on the number of securement accidents that occurred based on crew size. However, without an estimate of how many trains are operated by a specific crew size, the statistics are impossible to interpret. An estimation of the number of one-person and multiple-person crews that are currently operating trains on shortline or regional railroads is critical to understanding the crew size issue. FRA believes that ASLRRA is in a good position to gather this information from its membership and provide this estimate. In addition, we'd like to learn more about what level of assessment your members did regarding crew size and what changes, if any, were implemented due to that assessment. FRA requests that ASLRRA gather this vital information and submit it to FRA by December 6, 2013.

Your response to this request will also be posted on the FRA Web site to ensure complete transparency with the American public.

Thank you again for your cooperation and assistance on this important safety initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph C. Szabo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Joseph C. Szabo
Administrator