



EAST TEXAS CORRIDOR COUNCIL (ETCC) CALLS ON CONGRESS TO SUPPORT FREIGHT RAIL EXPANSION

ETCC Member Tim Geeslin Joins “Railroad Day on the Hill” Effort

WASHINGTON, March 13, 2008 — Tim Geeslin, a member of the East Texas Corridor Council, has joined 30 other individuals from around the country in Washington today to talk with members of Congress about the importance of supporting legislation to increase the nation’s freight rail capacity.

The individuals are members of Go21, a national public interest organization advocating increased freight rail hauling capacity because of the public benefits associated with shipping more freight by rail.

Geeslin is a manager at the Dallas office of Veritas Advisory Group and has consulted and performed cost analyses on a variety of projects, including airports, pipelines, power plants, rail facilities and commercial construction projects. He has served on the board of the National Association of Rail Passengers (NARP) since 1998 and a member of the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition (TRTC).

“I think it is extremely important to encourage more freight to move by rail, particularly in the Longview/Tyler area, which is facing air quality issues,” Geeslin said. “By increasing freight rail capacity, we could reduce both highway congestion and fuel consumption while at the same time improving air quality.”

The Go21 members are in Washington to take part in “Railroad Day on the Hill,” an annual event in which representatives of the nation’s freight railroads and the railway supply industry visit with members of Congress to talk about issues critical to the health of the freight railroad industry.

The key issue addressed by participants this year is expansion of the nation’s rail freight capacity. With freight rail demand expected to almost double by 2035, a recent study found that \$146 billion should be invested in expanding freight rail capacity in order to handle that increase.

One way to do that would be for Congress to pass the bi-partisan Freight Rail Infrastructure Capacity Expansion Act (S. 1125 and H.R. 2116).

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That legislation would provide a 25 percent tax credit for any business investing in new rail track, intermodal facilities, rail yards, locomotives or other rail infrastructure expansion projects. The legislation has been endorsed by a wide range of rail customers including the National Mining Association, the American Association of Port Authorities, the National Retail Federation, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers.

“It’s also important that Congress reject attempts to reregulate the railroad industry,” said Edward R. Hamberger, president and CEO of the Association of American Railroads (AAR), one of the sponsors of Railroad Day on the Hill. “The result of that would be to deprive railroads of the money needed to expand rail capacity to meet the increased demand from all rail shippers.”

In addition to Go21 and the AAR, other sponsors of Railroad Day on the Hill include the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, the Railway Supply Institute, the Railway Tie Association and the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition.

About East Texas Corridor Council

The East Texas Corridor Council is a regional consensus for capacity investments to secure higher speed rail for the 6.5 million residents along the Interstate 20 corridor from Dallas/Fort Worth to the Arkansas and Louisiana border connections.

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