## **Making Tracks California**



## California Short Line Railroad Association 2017 Sacramento Visit

## 2017 Bills and Regulations Positions

We **SUPPORT**: **SB 1** (Beall)/**AB 1** (Frazier) Transportation infrastructure funding; **AB 695** (Bocanegra) Railroad safety.

We **OPPOSE**: **South Coast AQMD container fee proposal** (no bill number); **CARB indirect source rule** for ports, railyards, warehouses and distribution centers (Resolutions 17-7 and 17-8).

Monitoring: SB 4 and AB 151.



California's 25 short line railroads provide a vital "first and last mile" link to the national freight transportation network for businesses throughout the state. Relative to trucking, rail transportation is fuel-efficient, environmentally friendly, reduces roadway congestion and upkeep cost, and is economically advantageous for these businesses. Many businesses could not survive without access to rail transportation.

Short line railroads are committed to safety and are closely regulated and monitored by the Federal Railroad Administration, the California Public Utilities Commission and other local, state and federal agencies. At the national level they also have access to safety program support from the Short Line Safety Institute. Despite increases in rail traffic, at the national level since 2005 human factor accidents are down 45%, track defects are down 52% and equipment defects are down 36%.

California's short lines are small businesses that provide hundreds well-paying blue collar jobs with excellent benefits. In addition the railroad industry, including many California railroads, has well-developed programs to seek out and hire military veterans. With an extensive roster of property, track, structures and rolling equipment to maintain, short line railroads also sustain many vendor companies and the tax base. We thank you for your support!

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