



THE RAILWAY ENGINEERING-MAINTENANCE SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION

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Congressman Flores Staff and Waco Mayor Kyle Deaver Join NRC/REMSA Member Axion Structural Innovations for Tour, Rail Discussion

Waco, TX – On March 13, 2017, representatives from the office of U.S. Congressman Bill Flores's (R-TX-17) and Waco Mayor Kyle Deaver joined representatives from Axion Structural Innovations LLC to tour their Waco manufacturing facility and discuss pressing rail and manufacturing issues with various rail stakeholders and local officials. The National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association (NRC) and the Railway Engineering-Maintenance Suppliers Association (REMSA) jointly coordinated the event.



Axion Composite Ties

Axion is a privately-owned technology and engineering company which produces large format structural products from common post-consumer and post-industrial recycled plastics for the railroad and construction industries. Axion has an array of domestic and international customers, a sampling of which includes Texas-based Dallas Area Rapid Transit, the Port of Houston and TG Mercer, as well as Union Pacific and CSX Rail along with New York City and New Jersey transits. Axion exports significant levels of products to Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia servicing Arconic, KiwiRail and Queensland Rail among others.

The tour was led by Axion President Claude Brown. Axion's Waco, Texas plant continues to ramp up production and expects to nearly double its growth rate in 2017. Axion's distinctive and proprietary technology is utilized in the construction of military, vehicle and railroad bridges along with heavy crane mats, temporary roadways and extensive railroad applications with over 400,000 composite railroad ties in service worldwide.

"We are honored to be joined by Congressman Flores' district team, Mayor Deaver, and members of our community to showcase Axion's technology and products made in America by American workers" said Brown.

Congressman Flores's staff focused their remarks on encouraging economic development in greater McLennan and Falls Counties, and ensuring a strong, efficient, and safe freight and transit rail system to connect Texas' diverse energy and agricultural producers to the global market.

"It was a pleasure to learn more about Axion and the exciting products they develop and manufacture in Waco. I applaud their continued investment in Central Texas and our Waco community," said Congressman Flores in a statement. "In Congress, I work every day on advancing a pro-growth agenda that helps our manufacturers, improves economic growth and increases career opportunities for hardworking American families."



Group on tour

The rail stakeholder group discussed regulatory initiatives issued by the Surface Transportation Board (STB) on reciprocal switching and commodity regulation. These efforts risk creating major inefficiencies in the national freight network and artificially creating government-mandated price caps. These efforts would lead to reduced capital investment in freight rail which is critical to supporting high-paying rail construction and supply jobs throughout the United States.

Also in attendance were: Jessica Attas, Director of Public Policy Greater Waco Chambers of Commerce; Jana Hixon, Regional Director, Congressman Flores; Allen Kronstadt, Executive Chairman, Axion; Jessica McKinney, Field Representative, Congressman Flores.

In Texas, 49 freight railroads operate and maintain over 10,400 miles of track and support over 16,000 jobs.

Local Press:

1. **Fox 44:** Local Company Makes Structural Products out of Recyclables (<http://www.mycentx.com/news/local/local-company-makes-structural-products-out-of-recyclables/671347708>)

Industry Press:

1. **RT&S:** Elected officials join Axion Structural Innovations for tour, rail discussion (<http://www.rtds.com/index.php/track-maintenance/off-track-maintenance/elected-officials-join-axion-structural-innovations-for-tour-rail-discussion.html?channel=>)
2. **Progressive Railroading:** Axion hosts congressional staff in Waco (http://www.progressiverailroading.com/supplier_spotlight/news/Axion-hosts-congressional-staff-visit-in-Waco--51100?email=Winkler@remsa.org&utm_medium=email&utm_source=prdailynews&utm_campaign=prdailynews3/17/2017)

PRESS RELEASES (GRASSROOTSPR)

- > **Congressman Flores Staff and Waco Mayor Kyle Deaver Join NRC/REMSA Member Axion Structural Innovations for Tour, Rail Discussion** (axionflores)
- > **Congressman Quigley joins REMSA member Industry-Railway Suppliers, rail stakeholders and local officials for Elmhurst facility tour and rail discussion** (irsquigley)
- > **US Congressman Bost Joins NRC/REMSA Member R. J. Corman Railroad Services for Tour, Rail Discussion** (cormanbost)
- > **Congressman Pallone joins REMSA member Cembre and local railroad for tour, rail cutting demonstration** (pallonecembre)
- > **Congressman Roger Marshall Joins NRC-REMSA member Dymax Rail and Local Railroad for Tour, Policy Discussion** (dymaxmarshall)
- > **Congressman Trey Hollingsworth Joins NRC-REMSA member RJ Corman and Local Railroad for Tour, Policy Discussion** (hollingsworthli)
- > **Congressman Don Bacon joins REMSA member Omaha Track and rail stakeholders for facilities tour and rail policy discussion** (baconot)