

Balfour Beatty Rail Hosts Congressman Yoho for Tour, Discussion

Fleming Island, FL - On November 12, 2015, Railway Engineering-Maintenance Suppliers Association (REMSA) member Balfour Beatty Rail hosted Congressman Ted Yoho (R-FL-3) for a tour of their facility and discussed public policy priorities for the rail industry at-large.

Jacksonville is a major rail hub in the United States. Home to CSX's headquarters, Genesee & Wyoming (GWRR), major Engineering firms, six REMSA members, and many other rail employers. Balfour Beatty Infrastructure demonstrates not only the importance of Jacksonville's rail employers to the local economy, but of their importance to projects nation-wide, particularly in the Design – Build arena:

"It was a pleasure to host Congressman Yoho for a tour of our Fleming Island facility," said Mark Snailham. "Jacksonville's an important rail hub in America. Locating here gives us access to Class I, short lines, engineering companies, and other major suppliers, allowing us to compete for and win projects across the nation. We look forward to continuing to promote a strong rail industry in Jacksonville."



Mark Snailham and Congressman Ted Yoho

Balfour Beatty Rail, a division of Balfour Beatty Infrastructure (BBI) - headquartered in Atlanta, GA, specializes in construction and maintenance services for public and private railroad markets. Their services include design, signal, ac & dc traction power, catenary systems, track construction and maintenance services. In July, Balfour Beatty Infrastructure was awarded a \$140 million contract to extend Denver's light-rail line to its southeast suburbs. This project is BBI's fifth major contract with RTD, representing over \$3.6 billion of work for the transit agency. The Jacksonville regional office employs approximately 30 people in Fleming Island.

“I was honored to have the opportunity to tour the Balfour Beatty Rail facility and see all the important work that is being done there,” said Congressman Yoho. “This facility and others like it, not only help move the freight that makes our economy and our country strong, it helps make our highways, bridges, and rail lines safer.”



Attendees pose with Congressman Yoho

The group touched on two important rail issues Congress recently addressed: extending the Positive Train Control implementation deadline from 2015 to 2018, with possible case-by-case extensions to 2020; and Senate confirmation of Sarah Feinberg as Administrator of Federal Railroad Administration. However, there is still work to be done as Congress has yet to act on extending the Short Line Tax Credit, which allows Florida’s 12 short line railroads to invest and improve their infrastructure, and is set to go to conference on a long-term transportation bill. Congressman Yoho is a co-sponsor of House bill H.R. 721, which extends the credit.

In Florida, 14 freight railroads operate and maintain over 2,900 miles of track and support over 4,900 jobs. Phosphate and chemicals were responsible for 56% of freight tonnage originated in Florida in 2012, followed by stone/gravel, intermodal and empty containers^[1].

Attendees included:

Joe Arbona, Assistant Vice President – Government Affairs, Genesee & Wyoming Railroad Services

Mike Cella, Candidate for Clay County Commission

Colin Kendrick, Director of Contract Management, Balfour Beatty Rail

Michael Roberts, Director of Business Operations, W.J. Sapp & Son

William Roseborough, Director – Project Management, CSX

Mark Snailham, Vice President, Balfour Beatty Rail

Sean Winkler, Grassroots Coordinator, REMSA

Industry Coverage:

1. [Railway Age: Yoho visits Balfour Beatty Rail](#)
2. [RT&S: Balfour Beatty, RJ Corman Host Congressional Reps.](#)