



THE RAILWAY ENGINEERING-MAINTENANCE SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION

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Congresswoman Bustos tours REMSA member Rail Construction Equipment, discusses rail issues

Rockford, IL - On May 31, 2016, Congresswoman Cheri Bustos (D-IL-17), a member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, joined representatives from Rail Construction Equipment (RCE) to tour their manufacturing facility, learn about their various rail construction products, and discuss public policy priorities for the business and rail communities in northwest Illinois. The Railway Engineering-Maintenance and Suppliers Association (REMSA), a non-profit trade group representing over 340 railway engineers, contractors, consultants, and suppliers across the country, coordinated the event. The \$5 billion maintenance of way industry supports over 35,000 jobs nationwide. Twenty-five REMSA members maintain operations in Illinois.



RCE's Facility

RCE's President & Owner Steve Benck led the tour. Also in attendance were Diane Benck, Owner, RCE; Rick Harnish, Executive Director, Midwest High Speed Rail Association; Nathan Johns, Vice President – Marketing & Government Affairs, Pioneer Railcorp; Larry Lloyd, Illinois State Director, GoRail; Liisa Stark, Assistant Vice President - Public Affairs, Union Pacific; and Sean Winkler, Grassroots Coordinator, REMSA.

“A strong railroad industry, which continues to invest billions into its rail system, is critical to our business and supporting manufacturing jobs in Rockford” said Steve Benck. “We are honored to be joined by Congresswoman Bustos and appreciate her willingness to learn about our commitment to the community and the critical role rail plays in supporting Illinois jobs.”

RCE is a leading designer and builder of rail construction equipment. They adapt conventional John Deere construction equipment like excavators, wheel loaders and motor graders to specific railroad maintenance tasks, such as tie-tamping or right-of-way clearing. They maintain a 90,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility that is shared with RCE's sister company, West Side Tractor. RCE provides sustainable manufacturing jobs for the greater Rockford area and employs approximately 20 individuals.



Steve Benck, RCE; Congresswoman Bustos; Diane Benck, RCE

Congresswoman Bustos is a leading voice on transportation & infrastructure issues in the House, where she has strongly advocated for increased rail safety funding and passenger rail service across Illinois.

“It was a pleasure to participate in the tour and to learn more about the work Rail Construction Equipment is doing here in Rockford,” said Rep. Bustos. “I look forward to continuing to engage with all stakeholders so we can create jobs, grow our local economy and ensure our communities are safely and efficiently served by freight and passenger rail service alike.”

The group discussed the private nature of America’s freight railroad network, which does not rely on federal support for the expansion or maintenance of its right-of-way unlike other modes of freight transportation. Also discussed was the recent bipartisan and bicameral introduction of the Building Rail Access for Customers and the Economy (BRACE) Act which is cosponsored by Rep. Bustos. The BRACE Act will allow the nation’s small, local freight railroads to increase their reinvestments to upgrade and expand the “first and last mile” of transportation infrastructure by making the Short Line Tax Credit permanent.

In Illinois, approximately 40 freight railroads operate and maintain over 6,900 miles of track and support over 13,000 jobs.

Local Coverage:

1. Peoria Public Radio: Railroad Construction Equipment Makes Talk Industry Issues with Rep. Bustos (<http://peoriapublicradio.org/post/railroad-construction-equipment-makers-talk-industry-issues-rep-bustos#stream/0>)
2. Quad City Daily News: Bustos Busy on Tuesday (<http://regionaldailynews.com/quad-city-daily-news/256737>)

Industry Coverage:

1. RT&S: RCE hosts Rep. Bustos for tour, discussion (<http://www.rtands.com/index.php/track-structure/ballast-ties-rail/rce-hosts-rep-bustos-for-tour-rail-discussion.html?channel=>)
2. Progressive Railroading: U.S. Rep. Bustos visits Rail Construction Equipment to discuss industry concerns (http://www.progressiverailroading.com/federal_legislation_regulation/news/US-Rep-Bustos-visits-Rail-Construction-Equipment-to-discuss-industry-concerns-48440?email=Andrew.davis@cch-llc.com&utm_medium=email&utm_source=prdailynews&utm_campaign=prdailynews06/03/2016)

PRESS RELEASES (GRASSROOTSPR)

> **PortaCo Hosts Rep. Peterson's Staff for Tour and Discussion**
(portaco)

> **Congressman Joyce joins Iron Horse Engineering, MAGNET, and REMSA for tour, highlights rail and manufacturing in Ohio** (ironhorse)

> **Sen. Graham, Scott staff joins GoRail and REMSA for Koppers tour**

(koppersc)

> Sen. Corker's Transportation
Staffer Joins UNITRAC for Tour,
Discusses Rail Issues (unitrac2016)

> Rep. Coffman's Chief and Sen.
Gardner's Regional Director Tour
New RTD Maintenance Facility,
Discuss Rail & Transit Issues
(balfourrtd)

> Congresswoman Bustos tours
REMSA member Rail Construction
Equipment, discusses rail issues
(rcebustos)

> Congressman Fitzpatrick joins
REMSA member TRAC Lubricants &
Coatings and the New Hope &
Ivyland Railroad for demonstration,
discussion (newhopetrac)

> Rep. Polis joins REMSA Member
Encore Rail Systems for
Demonstration, Discussion
(encorepolis)

> Senator Debbie Stabenow Joins
REMSA Member Harsco Rail, UAW
Local 811 for Tour and Policy
Discussion (harscostabenow)

> Congressman Rod Blum Joins
REMSA Member HIRAIL for Tour and
Rail Discussion (hirailblum)

> REMSA Member Flexovit USA hosts
Congressman Collins for reopening
tour, policy discussion
(flexovitcollins)

> REMSA Members LT Resources,
American TieTek host Congressman
Gohmert for tour, rail discussion
(tietekgohmert)

> Congressman Mike Rogers Joins
REMSA Member Knox Kershaw and
Alabama Railroads for Tour and
Discussion (knoxkershaw)

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

**PHOTOS (CONTENT.ASP?
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**RAILROAD DAY ON CAPITOL HILL
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