



THE RAILWAY ENGINEERING-MAINTENANCE SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION

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[Home \(index.asp\)](#) [Grassroots Program \(/grassroots\)](#) [Press Releases \(/grassrootspr\)](#)

[Print This Page](#)

[REMSA Member Flexovit USA hosts Congressman Collins for reopening tour, policy discussion \(/flexovitcollins\)](#)

REMSA Member Flexovit USA hosts Congressman Collins for reopening tour, policy discussion

Angola, NY – On October 5, 2016, U.S. Congressman Chris Collins (R-NY-27) joined representatives from Flexovit USA Inc. to tour their recently reopened Angola manufacturing facility and discuss pressing rail and manufacturing issues with various rail stakeholders and local officials. The Railway Engineering-Maintenance Suppliers Association (REMSA) coordinated the event.

The tour was led by Tom Calabrese, CEO, Flexovit. The group toured Flexovit's manufacturing facility, which was severely damaged by excessive snowfall in 2014. Flexovit has since been working around the clock to repair the facility and bring production back online. They are proud to, once again, provide high-skilled manufacturing employment opportunities in their reopened 100,000 sq. ft. facility.

"We are honored to be joined by Congressman Collins and our local officials to share in this proud and emotional moment for us," said Calabrese. "Our business and employees were pushed to the brink, but we pushed through adversity and never gave up on our community. We have called the Angola-Evans area home for almost 40 years and could not be happier to share in our reopening with our community and elected officials."



Rail cutting demonstration

Founded in 1977, Flexovit USA specializes in the production of high producing abrasive products for portable power tools. Their grinding and rail cutting products serve the rail industry and were demonstrated as part of the tour. Flexovit manufactures exclusively in the United States and employs approximately 80.

Congressman Collins focused his remarks on encouraging economic development in Western New York, and ensuring a strong, efficient, and safe freight rail system to connect New York's agriculture producers to the global market.

"A strong and efficient railroad is crucial for getting Western New York's goods to market," said Congressman Collins. "It was a honor to learn more about Flexovit and witness their commitment to our region firsthand. We look forward to working with our local businesses to continue to support policies that provide high-skill

and high-wage jobs.”



Flexovit accepts Congressional Certificate from Rep. Collins

The rail stakeholder group discussed the bipartisan and bicameral Building Rail Access for Customers and the Economy (BRACE) Act, which would make the Short Line Tax Credit permanent. This effort will allow the nation’s small, local freight railroads to increase their reinvestments to upgrade and expand the “first and last mile” of their transportation infrastructure. The bill has garnered over 180 bi-partisan cosponsors in the House, including Congressman Collins. The group also discussed recent regulation 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 supply jobs throughout the United States.

Also in attendance were: Robert Biondi, President, Evans-Brant Chamber of Commerce; Pierre Hawkins, Director of Sales & Marketing, Flexovit; Supervisor Mary Hosler, Town of Evans; Bob Riehle, Director of Manufacturing and Human Resources, Flexovit; Starr Torres, Marketing Coordinator, Flexovit; Sean Winkler, Grassroots Coordinator, REMSA.

In New York, 39 freight railroads operate and maintain over 3,400 miles of track and support over 3,400 jobs.

Local Press:

1. **WKBW:** Flexovit finally recovers from snowvember storm (<http://www.wkbw.com/news/flexovit-finally-recovers-from-snowvember-storm>)
2. **WBFO/NPR:** Local manufacturer reopens two years after deadly storm (<http://news.wbfo.org/post/local-manufacturer-reopens-two-years-after-deadly-storm>)

Industry Press:

1. **Progressive Railroad:** Flexovit, Rocla host Congressional visits (http://www.progressiverailroading.com/supplier_spotlight/news/Flexovit-Rocla-host-congressional-visitors--49712)
2. **RT&S:** Flexovit celebrates facility reopening, hosts Rep. Collins (<http://www.rtands.com/index.php/track-machinery/flexovit-celebrates-facility-reopening-hosts-rep-collins-for-tour.html?channel=>)

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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