

Congressman McKinley Tours REMSA Member Warwood Tool Company

On August 5, Congressman David B. McKinley (WV-1) joined representatives from REMSA member Warwood Tool Company and the Appalachian & Ohio Railroad, a short line railroad, to tour Warwood's steel tool manufacturing facility and discuss public policy priorities for the business and rail communities in Wheeling, West Virginia.

Congressman McKinley's tour was led by Warwood Tool Company's executive team: Logan Hartle, President, Phillip Carl, Vice President, and Michael Carl, CEO. Also in attendance were: Matt Reese, General Manager, Appalachian and Ohio Railroad and Sean Winkler, Grassroots Coordinator, REMSA.



Left to Right: Congressman McKinley, Phil Carl, Matt Reese, and Logan Hartle

Warwood Tool Company has produced American-made, hand-forged tools in Wheeling for over 160 years. For the tour, the group observed the forging of Claw Bars, track maintenance tools used to remove railroad spikes, and discussed the importance of using American sourced steel.



Phil Carl demonstrates claw bar to Congressman McKinley

Warwood's unique local history and commitment to using American sourced materials peaked Congressman McKinley's interest in learning more about West Virginia's contribution to the maintenance-of-way and rail industries:

“Warwood Tool Company has had a rich history in the Wheeling area for 160 years. We need to ensure they have a bright future as well. We need to make things in America, and with affordable, reliable energy and a skilled workforce, we can continue to grow our manufacturing base.” – Congressman David B. McKinley (WV-1).

The group discussed the private nature of America's freight railroad network which, unlike other modes of freight transportation, does not rely on federal support for the expansion or maintenance of its track and the importance of supporting short line railroads, which help connect West Virginia's far-flung coal mines to the main railroad lines. In West Virginia, eight freight railroads operate and maintain over 2,220 miles of track and support over 2,800 jobs. Coal was responsible for 93% of tonnage originated in West Virginia, followed by chemicals, cement, and stone.

Local Media Coverage:

1. [WTOV 9 Interviews Congressman McKinley and Logan Hartle, President, Warwood Tool Company](#)
2. [The Intelligencer: McKinley Visits Warwood Tool Co.](#)

Industry Media Coverage:

1. [Progressive Railroading: REMSA Coordinates Congressman McKinley/Warwood Tool Co. Tour](#)
2. [RT&S: Rep. McKinley Tours Warwood Tool Facility, Discusses Rail Issues](#)