Congressman Mike Rogers Joins REMSA Member Knox Kershaw and Alabama Railroads for Tour and Discussion

MONTGOMERY, AL– On October 27, 2016, U.S. Congressman Mike D. Rogers (R-AL-3) joined Knox Kershaw, Inc., to tour their long held Montgomery facility and discuss pressing rail and manufacturing issues with representatives from local railroads and businesses. The Railway Engineering-Maintenance Suppliers Association (REMSA) coordinated the event.

The tour was led by J. Knox Kershaw, II, Chairman & CEO, Knox Kershaw. The tour highlighted Knox Kershaw’s Ballast Regulator machines, used in the maintenance of way industry, and their state of the art facility, which also produces tie cranes, track brooms, material handlers and other railway maintenance equipment.

“We are honored to host Congressman Rogers and demonstrate our commitment to providing high quality products manufactured here in Alabama,” said Kershaw. “Our business has been an integral part of our local community for over three generations and we were humbled to recently be recognized by Governor Bentley for a Trade Excellence Award. It is crucial that our policy makers in Washington support sound rail and trade policies to promote high-skilled and high-paying jobs here in Montgomery.”

Based in Montgomery, Alabama, Knox Kershaw began as a family owned railroad contracting company in 1924. Over generations, the company has grown into a leading manufacturer of maintenance-of-way equipment with a diverse product line of machines and spare parts for domestic and international markets. The company is not only a leader in the railroad maintenance equipment industry, but also a pillar of the local community, supporting causes that improve the city of Montgomery and provides jobs to over 100 citizens of Alabama.

Congressman Rogers focused his remarks on encouraging economic development in Alabama, ensuring awareness and safety at rail-highway grade crossings, and the need for a strong, efficient, and safe freight rail system to connect Alabama’s agricultural and energy producers to the global market.
"We must do all we can in Washington to ensure our small and medium sized businesses succeed," said Congressman Rogers. "I look forward to working with strong Alabama companies like Knox Kershaw to continue to create manufacturing jobs here in Montgomery and promote American products abroad."

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 220 bi-partisan cosponsors in the House, including Congressman Rogers.

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.

In Alabama, 26 freight railroads operate over 3,100 miles of track and support over 3,700 jobs.

Local Press:
1. Alabama Political Reporter: Congressman Mike Rogers Tours Railroad Equipment Manufacturer (http://www.alreporter.com/congressman-rogers-tours-railroad-equipment-manufacturing-facility/)

Industry Press:
> 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 Staff Joins UNITRAC for Tour, Discusses Rail Issues (unitrac2016)


> 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 (tietogohmert)

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

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

PHOTOS (CONTENT.ASP?CONTENTID=179)

RAILROAD DAY ON CAPITOL HILL (RAILROADDAY)

ARCHIVE (GRASSROOTSARCHIVE)

TESTIMONIALS (TESTIMONIALS)