



THE RAILWAY ENGINEERING-MAINTENANCE SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION

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## THE RAILWAY ENGINEERING-MAINTENANCE SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION

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[Home \(index.asp\)](#) [Grassroots Program \(/grassroots\)](#) [Press Releases \(/grassrootspr\)](#)  
[Sen. Graham, Scott staff joins GoRail and REMSA for Koppers tour \(/koppersc\)](#)

[Print This Page](#)

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

**Florence, SC** – On April 5, 2016, representatives from the offices of Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Tim Scott (R-SC) joined representatives from GoRail and the Railway Engineering-Maintenance Suppliers Association (REMSA) to tour Koppers' rail tie manufacturing facility, learn about the burgeoning rail and manufacturing communities in the Pee Dee region, and discuss public policy priorities for the industries.

Led by S. Doug Lowe, plant manager, the group toured the 210-acre site where Koppers employs over 80 people and produces cross ties, switch ties, bridge material, and preplated cross ties as well as utility poles and piling.

"Koppers has been committed to the Pee Dee area since 1946 and we are thrilled to be able to represent a piece of the expanding rail and manufacturing industries here in South Carolina," said Lowe. "With our focus on safety and quality in the rail industry, we welcomed the opportunity to host GoRail, REMSA, and Senators Graham and Scott come to discuss public policies that affect us all."



Wood ties stacks

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 network. Additionally, the group advocated for support of the Building Rail Access for Customers and the Economy Act (BRACE). 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, benefitting South Carolina shippers that depend on affordable freight access.



Ms. Urquhart (Graham), Ms. Dacosta (Scott), and Mr. Lowe (Koppers)

GoRail, a national non-profit grassroots organization that unites rail stakeholders with community leaders and the public in support of rail solutions to tomorrow's transportation challenges and REMSA, a non-profit trade group representing over 350 railway engineers, contractors, consultants, and suppliers across the country, jointly coordinated the event.

"Railroads are spending massive amounts of private dollars—\$600 billion since 1980—on the nationwide rail network that helps connect South Carolina businesses to the country and beyond," said Christy Sammon, state director for GoRail. "These continued investments then not only propel the economy, they are also critical to supporting the rail, maintenance-of-way, and manufacturing industries, like we see here at Koppers."

In South Carolina, 15 freight railroads operate and maintain over 2,300 miles of track and employ over 1,700 individuals.

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#### Industry Coverage:

1. RT&S: **Koppers hosts tour of South Carolina plant** (<http://www.rtands.com/index.php/track-structure/ballast-ties-rail/koppers-hosts-tour-of-south-carolina-tie-plant.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? CONTENTID=179)**

**RAILROAD DAY ON CAPITOL HILL (RAILROADDAY)**

**ARCHIVE (GRASSROOTSARCHIVE)**

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