



THE RAILWAY ENGINEERING-MAINTENANCE SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION

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[Senator Debbie Stabenow Joins REMSA Member Harsco Rail, UAW Local 811 for Tour and Policy](#)

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

Ludington, MI – On July 19 U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) joined representatives from Harsco Rail and United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 811 to tour Harsco's Ludington facility, address their union employees, and discuss pressing rail and manufacturing issues with various rail advocates and business guests. The Railway Engineering-Maintenance and Suppliers Association (REMSA) coordinated the event. REMSA is a non-profit trade group representing over 340 railway engineers, contractors, and consultants and maintenance-of-way suppliers across the country. The \$5 billion railroad maintenance-of-way industry supports over 35,000 jobs nationwide. Seven REMSA members maintain operations in Michigan.

The tour was led by Ray Patterson, Senior Director of Operations & Supply Chain, Harsco Rail. The tour highlighted Harsco's rail maintenance of way equipment, which is manufactured on site. The equipment is used by railroads and rail contractors to safely maintain and expand their networks.

"We are honored to host Senator Stabenow and share our commitment to manufacturing in upstate Michigan," said Patterson. "Our business and our employees rely on continued freight rail investment for our livelihoods and we must work with our representatives in Washington to encourage sound transportation and investment policy."



Whitacre, Shinsky, Sen. Stabenow, Kariem

Harsco Rail, a worldwide operating segment of Harsco Corporation, is a global supplier for railway track maintenance and construction. Harsco Rail provides expert engineering, innovative technology, dedicated parts and services, and quality maintenance from nine main locations in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, India, Brazil, China and Australia. Their Ludington facility has been in operation since 1923. It employs approximately 160 and is affiliated with UAW Local #811.

Senator Stabenow focused her remarks on encouraging economic development in the region, partnering with business and labor to ensure safe working conditions and fair wages, and the need for a strong, efficient, and safe freight rail system to connect Michigan's agriculture and auto producers to the global market.

"We do not have an economy or a middle class in Michigan unless we make things and grow things," said Senator Stabenow. "Freight rail supports high-skilled manufacturing jobs here in Ludington and across our state and is critical to moving Michigan-grown products around the country. I remain committed to the right policies that stand up for our manufacturers, our workers, and our farmers."

Sen. Debbie Stabenow talks to Ludington Harsco employees and ...



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. The group highlighted recent Congressional considerations of increasing truck sizes and weights. The group thanked the Senator for her vote instructing Senate negotiators to oppose increasing truck size in the October 2015 FAST Act surface transportation bill conference committee negotiations. Also discussed was the recent bipartisan and bicameral introduction of the Building Rail Access for Customers and the Economy (BRACE) Act. The BRACE Act will make the Short Line Tax Credit permanent. This 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 43 bi-partisan cosponsors in the Senate, including Senator Stabenow.

Also in attendance were: Jon Cool, President, Michigan Railroads Association; Craig Fairley, Columbia Plant Manager, Harsco Rail; Michael Gaynor, Assistant Vice President, GoRail; Gerald Kariem, Regional Director, UAW Region 1D; Dan Kosheba, International Servicing Representative, UAW Region 1D; Larry Lloyd, State Director, GoRail; Janet Shinsky, President, Local UAW #811; Alex Whitacre, Ludington Plant Manager, Harsco Rail; and Sean Winkler, Grassroots Coordinator, REMSA.

In Michigan, 27 freight railroads operate and maintain over 3,500 miles of track and support over 3,100 jobs.

Local Coverage:

1. Ludington Daily News: Harsco, UAW Local applaud Mich. Senator Stabenow in visit to Ludington plant (http://www.shorelinemedia.net/ludington_daily_news/news/local/harsco-uaw-local-applaud-michigan-sen-debbie-stabenow-in-visit/article_4a039610-4ddb-11e6-b6ef-ebadc4d63851.html)
2. Mason County Press: Senator Stabenow Tours Harsco Rail (<http://www.masoncountypress.com/2016/07/19/senator-stabenow-tours-harsco-rail/>)
3. 9 And 10 News: Senator Debbie Stabenow Speaks to Harsco Employees about Jobs in Michigan (<http://www.9and10news.com/story/32483032/senator-debbie-stabenow-speaks-to-harsco-employees-about-jobs-in-michigan>)
4. WPBN: Stabenow Stress Importance of Rail (<http://upnorthlive.com/news/local/stabenow-stresses-importance-of-rail>)

Industry Coverage:

1. RT&S: Sen. Stabenow joins Harsco Rail for tour, discussion (<http://www.rtands.com/index.php/track-maintenance/off-track-maintenance/rep-stabenow-joins-harsco-rail-for-tour-discussion.html?channel=>)
2. Progressive Railroading: Harsco Rail, Siemens host U.S. lawmakers for plant tours (http://www.progressiverailroading.com/supplier_spotlight/news/Harsco-Rail-Siemens-host-US-lawmakers-for-plant-tours--48881)

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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