

Wisconsin Central Group



An ad hoc Rail Freight Stakeholders Coalition

www.centralcorridors.com/wcg/

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2nd BI-ANNUAL FORESTRY POLICY CONFERENCE

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"Industries, jobs and taxes want to go where the railroad is."

Wick Moorman, CEO Norfolk Southern
Congressional Testimony, April 24, 2013

Wisconsin Central Group is an ad hoc rail freight stakeholders coalition dedicated to increasing economy opportunity and competitiveness throughout the Great Lakes Forest Region by working collaboratively to increase freight on the region's lighter density rail lines.

Freight rail competitiveness is crucial for our forest resources, both raw and manufactured forest products in both domestic and export markets and all other products manufactured and consumed in Great Lakes Forest communities.

What can our Congressional Representatives do to help this effort?

1. Renew and Expand the Shortline Investment Tax Credit.
 - Apply credit to all light density rail lines, regardless of ownership, *i.e.*, even the playing field for investment decisions by all railroads.
 - Extend the credit to investment in ancillary rail equipment, properties and facilities by shippers and 3rd parties who are not themselves railroads.
2. Provide Payload Parity for International and Domestic Sealed Rail Containers.
 - FHWA already allows states to permit heavier international containers.
 - Encourage FHWA to extend this right to domestic containers, but limit to domestic freight moving in rail intermodal.
3. Public benefit:
 - Increase competitiveness of communities on under-used rail lines;
 - Stop discrimination favoring foreign over domestic manufacturing; and
 - Shift non-captive freight from truck to rail and rail intermodal, providing a highway maintenance and congestion dividend to everyone.

Under the auspices of: Wisconsin Paper Council, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, and Michigan Forest Products Council