



## **Railroad Cooperation and Education Trust**

### **RAILCET**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **RAILCET urges Secretary LaHood to invest discretionary recovery funds in Class II and III railroads**

*Cites "shovel ready" freight and small rail projects that would immediately help grow U.S. economy*

**SPRINGFIELD, IL** (April 23, 2009) – Citing a need for Class II and III railroads to be at the federal investment table, the Railroad Cooperation and Education Trust (RAILCET) today joined the National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association (NRC) and the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) in requesting that Transportation Secretary LaHood give short line and regional railroads full consideration in implementation of the Secretary's Discretionary Fund under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

"Together with NRC, RAILCET was the first to call for inclusion of small railroads in the stimulus package," stated RAILCET Chairman and Vice President of Laborers' International Union of North America, John Penn. "We worked hard in the Senate and House to ensure eligibility for this important component of our national infrastructure."

RAILCET urged Secretary LaHood to invest discretionary funds into the short line and regional rail network to help facilitate the conversion to 286,000 pound freight cars that are becoming standard. This federal investment would help ensure the ability of small railroads to link rural America to the national rail network.

"In general, these projects involve basic rehabilitation, such as tie replacement, and are 'shovel ready' now without the need for further permits or approvals," said NRC President Chuck Baker. "These projects are ideal candidates for recovery funds because they can stimulate our economy immediately."

Moreover, these rail projects have enormous public benefits, such as energy savings and reducing pollution; they create highway benefits by relieving congestion and improving safety. RAILCET is hopeful that Secretary LaHood will use his discretionary ARRA funds to better the United States' infrastructure by supporting short line and regional rail systems.

*The **Railroad Cooperation and Education Trust** is an organization of railroad labor and management that promotes cooperation in all disciplines of railroad contracting. This includes formulas to "win the bid" for railroad maintenance and construction projects in a highly competitive environment and the promotion of railroad infrastructure legislation in Congress and the state legislatures that furthers the railroad construction business climate. RAILCET members understand the importance of job well-done, completed safely, on time and on budget.*

**For more information please visit our website, [www.railcet.net](http://www.railcet.net)**

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