

“States as Railroads”

Proposed Amendment to Interstate Commerce Act:
Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Language

Proposal

- **...deem a commuter authority, state, or local government, or other person who acquires, leases or establishes a line of RR that will operate in two or more states, or that is otherwise part of the general system of rail transportation, for the purpose of RR passenger transportation, to be a rail carrier for purposes of railroad laws applicable to RR employees, unless a rail carrier is used to perform all railroad work on the line(s).**

Understanding the Impact & Arguments

- SPRC Members CA, NNEPRA, VA, WI shared comments from legal teams;
- SPRC is monitoring in partnership with AASHTO if a written response is necessary;
- Responses to material provided is welcome;
- This is an ongoing conversation, and an evolving issue.

Concerns

- Some states are prohibited from operating a railroad.
- Although the proposal states this resolves unfairness surrounding the State of Main precedent, not one single instance is cited where this was used to break a union or reduce union worker rights.
- The proposal would make states do more than other rail line buyers (i.e. shortline operators).
- The proposal would increase legal and financial liabilities, increase costs, and create confusion of applicable regulations to new and existing operations.

FRA Corridor ID Program

- Amtrak National Network
- New Services
- Enhanced Services
- Service Suspended

(Not all stations are shown)

AMTRAK
Connects US
2035

Thank you.

