



PRIORITIZING RAIL REFORMS & INVESTMENT TO BENEFIT SOUTH DAKOTA

As the former state railroad director for South Dakota and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, which has oversight over our nation's rail system, Sen. Thune has prioritized efforts that have resulted in substantial reforms to this industry that will benefit shippers and improve rail service throughout South Dakota.

Highlights of Sen. Thune's Commitment to Supporting South Dakota's Rail Industry:

- **Authored** the **Railroad Rehabilitation Financing Improvement Act (S.468)**, which became law as part of the **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58)** in 2021:
 - States like South Dakota rely on short line railroads to transport agricultural products and other goods to market.
 - The Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) program was originally designed to provide stable financing to small railroads for infrastructure investment, but it has mostly been used to fund large passenger rail projects.
 - Sen. Thune's bill streamlined the credit review process to make the program more accessible to short lines.
 - It also authorized funding to cover financing costs associated with providing RRIF loans.
- **Authored** **Surface Transportation Board (STB) Reauthorization Act**, which became law in 2015:
 - Until the passage of this legislation, the STB had not been reauthorized or substantively reformed since its creation in 1996.
 - Sen. Thune's bill improved the STB's dispute resolution processes, including by setting timelines and expanding arbitration procedures, to resolve rate and service issues faster and at less cost.
 - It also provided the STB with the authority to proactively investigate and resolve rail issues, such as the service problems that impacted South Dakota shippers in 2013 and 2014, expanded the board, and authorized a more collaborative approach to oversight.
- **Secured a permanent extension of the Short Line Tax Credit, which promotes strong investments that are crucial freight connectors, ensuring our farmers can move their goods to markets around the country and the world.**