

The Case for Short Line Railroads

- Short lines have lower labor costs than Class I railroads and are more likely to be able to operate low density lines profitably.
- Short Lines can provide superior shipper service
- If short lines are successful, they reduce the number of truck shipments, resulting in less highway maintenance and rehabilitation cost

The Case Against Short Line Railroads

- Short lines are not likely to survive in the long run because of large deferred maintenance expenses
- Short lines are too dependent on a few commodities for most of their revenue
- Short lines are too dependent of Class I railroads for equipment and market access.