

For Immediate Release  
August 9, 1999

Contact: Diane Duff  
202-216-9270

## ARC Applauds Rep. Quinn's Introduction of Rail Competition Legislation

Washington, D.C. – On receiving the news that Congressman Jack Quinn (R-NY) introduced H.R. 2784, "The Railroad Competition and Service Improvement Act of 1999," ARC representatives cheered the action and vowed to actively support Congressman Quinn's efforts. "Buffalo's rail service difficulties have been well-known, particularly over the last several months," said Terry Whiteside, chairman of ARC. "Undoubtedly, Congressman Quinn has heard from his constituents, many of whom are captive to rail transportation, and has seen first hand the impact of rail monopoly," continued Whiteside. "His leadership on the issue of providing rail customers with choice is invaluable, and we look forward to working with him to move this legislation through the process."

However, Buffalo's problems are not unique. Rail customers throughout the country are calling on their congressional representatives to support pro-competitive changes to rail policy. Years of lackluster performance from the rail industry, topped by the 1997 Union Pacific service disaster following its merger with Southern Pacific and the service disruptions associated with the ongoing Conrail carve-up between Norfolk Southern and CSX have created an almost revolutionary environment among rail customers. Rail customers--particularly those that are captive to one rail carrier--are extremely unhappy, and the cry for more choice is getting louder and louder.

With the Surface Transportation Board's 1998 statement that it had done all that it could do to provide for increased competition, only Congress can ensure that rail customer have a choice. Diane Duff, Executive Director of ARC, said that by introducing HR 2784, "Congressman Quinn added an important element to the ongoing debate over rail policy. Until now, the House of Representatives has been relatively silent on rail policy issues, leaving the debate to occur on the Senate side." Duff continued, "But Congressman Quinn's leadership in introducing this bill allows the debate to begin in the House in earnest. That is critical to the development of the ultimate legislative solution to rail customers' concerns."

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The Alliance for Rail Competition is a diverse coalition of shippers, representing many rail dependent industries, including agriculture, coal, chemicals, consumer products, forest and paper products, industrial products, minerals and petrochemicals. ARC was formed in March 1997 to develop a consensus plan for achieving rail-to-rail competition.