



Protecting Our Environment

Keeping America On Track For Cleaner Air

(NAPSA)—Here's news that may help many Americans breathe easier: Our air can be cleaner and our dependence on volatile foreign oil can be less if we shift some of the freight now carried by truck to trains.

In fact, according to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 2.5 million fewer tons of carbon dioxide would be emitted into the air annually if only 10 percent of intercity freight now moving by highway were shifted to rail. At the same time, the nation would save as much as 200 million gallons of fuel a year.

That's because railroads are at least three times as fuel-efficient as trucks. For each gallon of fuel used, trains can move a ton of freight three times as far as trucks can.

What's more, investments in new technology and infrastructure have made the railroad industry environmentally better than ever before. Over the past five years alone, railroads have invested billions of dollars in more than 3,700 locomotives. Now the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that for every ton-mile a typical truck emits roughly three times more nitrogen oxides and particulates than does a loco-



Chances are, the things you'll use tomorrow are taking the train today. One train can carry the load of 500 trucks.

motive. Airplanes emit almost ten times as much. Other studies suggest that trucks emit six to 12 times more pollutants per ton-mile than do railroads.

Yet railroads are committed to even greater reductions in atmospheric emissions. New locomotives built, beginning in 2005, will reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by at least 60 percent when compared with locomotives built just a decade earlier.

As for fuel efficiency, the new locomotives have helped increase

fuel efficiency by 68 percent since 1980 when a gallon of diesel fuel moved a ton of freight an average of 235 miles. Now, railroads move a ton of freight an average of 396 miles per gallon.

Meanwhile, new and improved freight cars with lighter weight materials, stronger components and new wheel designs have helped reduce fuel use.

You can learn more about North American freight lines and how they've gotten cleaner and greener, at www.tomorrowsrailroads.org.