



Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co.

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July 1, 2010

TO: Whom It May Concern

FROM: Ken Lucht, Community Development Manager
Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co.

RE: **For Immediate Release**

Enclosed is a Press Release for immediate publication. If you have any questions, you may call me at (414) 750-6402. Thank you for your cooperation.

Enclosure

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

WISCONSIN & SOUTHERN RAILROAD CO.

PRESS RELEASE



Milwaukee, WI

July 1, 2010

Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Celebrates 30 Years

July, 1, 2010 - The Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co. (WSOR) celebrates 30 years of providing local freight railroad service to Wisconsin Communities and Businesses throughout Southern Wisconsin. Beginning as an 18-employee company serving a handful of businesses between Milwaukee and Oshkosh, the WSOR has grown into a major regional railroad competing on a national scale. *In 2009, WSOR was named "Regional Railroad of the Year" by Railway Age Magazine, a national award with over 400 similar shortline and regional railroad companies having eligibility.* The WSOR employs close to 200 people serving over 200 Wisconsin businesses and operating over 600 miles of rail track in Wisconsin and Northern Illinois. The WSOR is headquartered in Milwaukee, with terminal offices in Madison, Janesville & Horicon.

The WSOR began "branch line" railroad service in southern Wisconsin by virtue of Class One railroad abandonments. The WSOR has not only preserved railroad corridors in this state, but has brought them back to life. Over the past 30 years, carloads have grown from approximately 7,500 in 1980 to over 40,000 in 2009. Employees for WSOR have increased from 18 in 1980 to over 200 in 2010. And, total track miles operated have increased from 150 to over 600, with more miles planned for growth.

Much of WSOR's track system is owned publicly by the State of Wisconsin and 19 Southern Wisconsin Counties. The WSOR leases the rail system as a contractual operator providing localized railroad service to over 1,400 communities throughout Southern Wisconsin. *"The Wisconsin & Southern Railroad has served as an economic engine to many communities and businesses here in Southern Wisconsin, stated Bill Gardner, President and CEO of Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co. "Today, the businesses we serve employ more than **24,000 people** and help save Wisconsin taxpayers **more than \$12 Million annually** in highway maintenance costs by having their freight travel the rails, he added. For many Wisconsin businesses, Rail is by far more efficient than competing modes. A 25-car unit train of corn can be loaded in only four hours as compared to loading ninety semi trucks taking in upwards of a day in a half.*

In addition to the array of public benefits that rail provides, rail remains one of the most environmental-friendly form of transportation around - Today's trains can haul 1 ton of freight 460 miles on just one gallon of diesel fuel. And, WSOR is dedicated to reaching even greater achievements in areas such as increasing fuel efficiency and reducing emissions.

Media Contacts:

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