



Pioneer Lines Recognized for Safety Performance

Ten railroads received annual Jake Safety Award with distinction

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DENVER, CO, June 2, 2021– Ten railroads operated by Pioneer Lines were recognized with distinction in the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) annual Jake Safety Awards, announced June 2. The Jake Award program recognizes railroads for above-industry average safety performance during 2020. To be awarded with “distinction”, a railroad had no reportable injuries in 2020.

“Safety is the number one priority on every railroad. Our member railroads are focused not only on compliance, but on creating a strong safety culture where each employee feels accountable for safety, day in and day out,” said Chuck Baker, President of ASLRRA. “This year ASLRRA member railroads reduced their injury rate by 10%, significantly outpacing the overall industry decline of 8% in an impressive year for railroad safety. That includes a record 316 ASLRRA member railroads receiving Jake with Distinction Awards reflecting zero employee-on duty accidents on their railroads in 2020.”

To be honored with a Jake Award, an ASLRRA member must perform better than the industry average reportable injury frequency rate for railroads other than Class I, commuter railroads and Amtrak based on data reported to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) during the calendar year. That average industry reportable injury frequency rate for 2020 was 2.18 per 200,000 employee on-duty hours.

The Pioneer railroads receiving Jake with Distinction Awards include Decatur Junction Railway, Elkhart & Western Railroad, Garden City Western Railway, Gettysburg & Northern Railroad, Indiana Southwestern Railway, Kendallville Terminal Railway, Keokuk Junction Railway, Michigan Southern Railroad, Mississippi Central Railroad, and Ripley & New Albany Railroad.

Under new ownership since 2019, recognition in the 2020 Jake Awards is a testament the high priority Pioneer Lines’ leadership places on safety.

“When our team came on board in 2019, Pioneer’s incident rate was well above the industry average,” noted Ross Grantham, Chief Operating Officer of Pioneer Lines. “We immediately recognized safety would be our first priority and we undertook a number of initiatives to build a strong safety culture and set a goal of reaching no reportable incidents across all our railroads. To have so many of our railroads reach this goal in such a small amount of time is



an indication of the incredible men and women at Pioneer. This was a collective effort, and I extremely proud of our team's dedication to operating safely."

"We appreciate the recognition from the ASLRRA for our dedication to creating a safe environment for our employees and customers," added Alex Yeros, Chief Executive Officer of Pioneer Lines. "Safety has, and will remain, the highest priority at Pioneer and we will continue to strive for improvements across all our railroads."

The Jake Awards are named for Lowell S. "Jake" Jacobson, the president and general manager of the Copper Basin Railway (CBRY). After achieving a perfect safety record for the CBRY in 1993, Jacobson realized that there was no award that recognized smaller railroads' safety records. In 1999, the ASLRRA Safety Committee adopted the Jake Awards, and since then, has continued Jacobson's legacy of rewarding and drawing attention to the high safety standards of the small-railroad industry.

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About Pioneer Lines: A freight and logistics leader since 1986, Pioneer Lines owns and operates 15 short line railroads across 12 states. Headquartered in Denver, Colorado, Pioneer Lines is the local workhorse of the national rail network and the link for over 100 industries, from rural and small-town America, to domestic and global markets. Pioneer's railroads directly or indirectly support over 17,000 jobs in the United States and transport diverse commodities, including agricultural and food products, iron and steel, plastics, chemicals, building materials and forest products. For more about Pioneer Lines, please visit www.PioneerLines.com

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