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SHORT LINE SAFETY INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES BOARD OF DIRECTOR APPOINTMENTS
Kristin Bevil, Pinsly Railroad Named Chair; Brad Walker, Watco Companies Welcomed as New Member

WASHINGTON – May 4, 2026 – The Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI) is pleased to announce that Kristin Bevil, General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer, Pinsly Railroad, has assumed the role of Board of Directors Chair. Ms. Bevil joined the SLSI Board of Directors in 2024, and succeeds Justin Broyles, President and CEO, R.J. Corman Group, who has completed his term.

“The SLSI has enjoyed strong support and guidance from our Board, comprised of railroad industry leaders in the fields of safety and operations,” said Tom Murta, Executive Director, SLSI. “We are grateful for Justin’s contributions, particularly in the development of our strategic plan, and steadfast support of our mission. Kristin’s experience in litigation, governance, regulatory compliance and labor relations broadens the strong and deep safety culture experience on our board. We look forward to working with Kristin as chairwoman.”

Bevil will hold the position ex-officio, while serving as the Vice Chair of the American Short Line and Regional Railroad (ASLRRRA) Board of Directors. She is an authorized volunteer for Operation Lifesaver, and has been recognized as a Railway Age *Woman in Rail* honoree. The award recognizes women who excel in leadership, service to the community, and driving industry change.

The SLSI also announced the addition of another career safety professional to the Board of Directors. Brad Walker, Vice President of Safety, Watco Companies was appointed at the organization's April Board Meeting.

Brad Walker began his railroading career on Watco's Kaw River Railroad as a conductor trainee. Progressing through a number of craft positions including engineer and trainmaster, Walker took the opportunity to focus on safety as a quality assurance and training management position, ultimately leading to his current role. As Vice President of Safety, he oversees all aspects of safety including training and safety culture for the transportation and mechanical services at Watco. He was named as a Progressive Railroading Magazine *Rising Star* in 2020.

"Brad's understanding of the day-to-day challenges faced by employees in a variety of railyard environments, as well as his training experience will provide immense benefit to our board," said Murta. "We are looking forward to drawing upon those skills, as we continue to elevate safety culture across short line freight, historic, tourist, passenger and commuter railroads."

Walker joins seven other industry leaders on the SLSI Board, including:

- Kristin Bevil (Chair), General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer, Pinsky Railroad
- John Angel, Vice President, Compliance and Training, Genesee & Wyoming Railroad Services, Inc.
- Chuck Baker, President, American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association
- Janet Gilbert, Partner, Fletcher & Sippel
- Mitch Harris, Vice President Safety & Compliance, Rio Grande Pacific Corporation
- Jared Martin, Vice President Operations, Modesto & Empire Traction Company
- Tom Murta, Executive Director, SLSI.

The Short Line Safety Institute encourages the short line and regional railroad industry to perform at an increasingly high level of safety, with a focus on safety culture defined as the shared values, actions, and behaviors that demonstrate a commitment to safety over competing goals and demands.

In addition to [Safety Culture Assessments](#), the SLSI provides [Hazardous Materials Training](#) to railroads and to [first responders](#), [Leading Forward](#) and [Structured Problem Solving](#) leadership skills development training, and more.

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About SLSI - The Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI) is the non-profit corporation that conducts Safety Culture Assessments, provides Hazardous Material Instructor and Leadership Development programs, and is the educational, training and research source for short line and regional railroads concerning safety culture. www.shortlinesafety.org, [@shortlinesafety](#), LinkedIn