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Rail Industry responds to two asks of Transport Secretary

25 October: Speaking last night at the Railway Industry Association's Parliamentary Reception, the Transport Secretary Chris Grayling MP set out two 'asks' for the rail supply industry: to promote the value of UK rail; and to improve cost efficiencies on future rail projects.

Responding to the speech, Darren Caplan, Chief Executive of the Railway Industry Association (RIA), said: "The industry acknowledges the Transport Secretary's 'asks' and is committed to delivering on both.

"The Railway Industry Association is working hard to showcase the UK's railway system. The UK rail network is one of the best in the world and, despite a sometimes negative portrayal to the public, our passenger and freight numbers are growing, satisfaction scores are amongst the highest in Europe, and we have a very strong safety record. We should do more to promote the great work this sector does day in and day out!

"On cost efficiency, RIA is working with partners right across the sector to examine how we can lower costs, through initiatives like RIA's Electrification Cost Challenge and Renewals Cost Working Group. By bringing the right people together and examining these issues rigorously, we can understand how the industry can save passengers and taxpayers money whilst still delivering the best possible service."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. The Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling MP spoke at RIA's Parliamentary Reception on 24 October 2017. He was joined by Darren Caplan, Chief Executive of RIA and Stephen Hammond MP, member of the Transport Select Committee and the sponsoring MP for the Reception.
2. **About the Railway Industry Association:** The Railway Industry Association (RIA) is the representative body for UK-based suppliers to the UK and world-wide railways. It has some 200 companies in membership and the sector employs 240,000 people and contributes annually £11 billion Gross Value Added (GVA). It is also a growing industry with the number of rail journeys expected to double over the next 25 years and freight set to grow significantly too. RIA's membership is active across the whole of railway supply, covering a diverse range of products and services and including both multi-national companies and SMEs (60% by number). RIA works to promote the importance of the rail system to UK plc, to help export UK expertise around the globe and to share best practice and innovation across the industry.