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State Senator Kristina Roegner

Ohio's 27th Senate District

Sponsor Testimony

Senate Bill 269

Ohio Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee

June 3, 2020

Chairman McColley, Vice-Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on S.B. 269, which proposes the creation of the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad license plate.

You may know that the only national park in our state is Cuyahoga Valley National Park, much of which is located within my senate district. Cuyahoga Valley National Park is an incomparable treasure to our state with more than 2.4 million visits to the park taking place annually.¹ In fact, Cuyahoga Valley National Park is the 11th most visited park in the nation in terms of annual visits.

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad is a unique feature in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, a key contributor to making the park the unreserved success that it is today. The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad's mission is to "provide educational, recreational and heritage railroad experiences and to provide alternative transportation to and within Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the Ohio and Erie Canalway."

The Cuyahoga Valley rail line began service in 1880, providing transportation for goods, services and people from Cleveland to Canton. The rail line was incorporated in 1972 as a non-profit organization and became known as the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad in 1994. CVSR currently operates six locomotives, offering train rides complete with dining options, educational experiences, passenger transportation, and sightseeing opportunities. In total, 97,069 passengers experienced Cuyahoga Valley National Park through the experiences provided by CVSR in 2018, not including an additional 14,140 passengers who participated in their Bike Aboard or Hike Aboard programs and 4,612 students and teachers who participated in their educational programs.²

This legislation proposes the creation of a special license plate to honor CVSR's efforts and to build awareness for their important partnership with Cuyahoga Valley National Park in making Ohio's one and only national park the very best place it can be for visitors from both Ohio and throughout the country. The specialized CVSR license plate would entail an additional \$25 fee, \$15 of which would go to CVSR and \$10 of which would cover administrative costs at the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

¹ <https://www.nps.gov/cuva/fact-sheet.htm>

² https://s6d5h5k2.stackpathcdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/CVSR_2018_Annual_Report_FN_190611-FINAL_low-002.pdf

