



**State Senator Stephanie Kunze
District 16**

Senate Transportation Committee
April 24, 2024
Senate Bill 233 Sponsor Testimony

Thank you Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio, members of the Senate Transportation Committee, for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for Senate Bill 233.

The bill requires drivers to stop for on-track equipment at rail crossings in the same manner that operators are required to stop for trains. On-track equipment generally includes the large and heavy construction, repair, and cleaning equipment used on railroads. This type of equipment is used for repairing the tracks, clearing snow, additional construction, and other activities needed to keep railroad tracks clear for trains. On-track equipment is often as large as a train, which poses the same risks to drivers at a crossing that trains do.

I have had numerous meetings with rail workers, mechanics, and representatives of rail companies in regards to safety and procedure surrounding trains. This bill prioritizes the safety of Ohio workers and drivers, and establishes an extra layer of precaution.

Thank you again for this opportunity, and we are happy to answer any questions you may have.