



P.O. BOX 12610
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212
(614) 224-4010
ora@ohiorailroadassociation.com

May 21, 2024

The Honorable Stephanie Kunze
Chair
Senate Transportation Committee
Ohio Senate
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chair Kunze and members of the Senate Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the short line railroad members of the Ohio Railroad Association, I am writing to share the Association's full support for the proposals contained within Senate Bill 250.

This legislation is a commonsense proposal that balances the differences between the large Class I railroad operations and those of Ohio's smaller railroads while maintaining safety enhancements recently made to railroad operations. While the United States' freight rail network is regarded as the best in the world, part of that recognition is based on the different classes of railroad playing in their role in that system. Short line railroads, often referred to as Class II and Class III railroads, usually operate in Ohio and elsewhere at much lower speeds and at lesser train volumes than their larger industry partners.

Ohio's Class II and Class III railroads often have less than one hundred (100) miles of track, and some have much less. This small footprint limits their business opportunities, thereby reducing their earnings potential. Railroading at any level is a very capital-intensive business, and small railroads must manage their investments to balance safety and service. The most important safety investment outside of trained employees is the maintenance of a sound track infrastructure. SB 250 reflects this balance in a responsible way by ensuring these railroads have appropriate safety technology that addresses both their operating realities and the concerns of the public.

We urge the Committee's support for SB 250.

Sincerely,

Arthur Arnold
Executive Director
The Ohio Railroad Association

