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## TESTIMONY

Ohio House Finance Committee

February 19, 2025

The Honorable Brian Stewart, Chairman

Subject: Substitute H.B. 54 Provisions on Wayside Detectors

Chairman Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney, and Members of the Ohio House Finance Committee:

On behalf of the Class II and Class III members of the Ohio Railroad Association, I am submitting this testimony to thank the Committee for the inclusion of language addressing the spacing requirements for wayside detectors on Ohio's smaller freight railroads. Wayside detectors are devices that detect and alert train crews to potential equipment issues while a train is in motion.

Class II and Class III railroads, generally referred to as short lines, have very different operating characteristics from the large interstate railroads, most importantly in the areas of speed, volume of freight traffic, and distance of haul. Many of these Ohio railroads have less than fifty (50) miles of track and operate at speeds below thirty (30) miles per hour.

Last year, short line railroads worked with legislators and stakeholders to develop Senate Bill 250, which proposed to refine existing statutes in a commonsense way that still maintains safety. The language included in Substitute House Bill 54 received two hearings in the Senate Transportation Committee in 2024. There was no opposition to the bill.

On behalf of the smaller railroads in Ohio, we thank the Committee for including this language in Substitute HB 54.

Art Arnold, Executive Director

The Ohio Railroad Association

