

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3516

June 15, 2020

Administrator Ron Batory  
Federal Railroad Administration  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Batory,

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) CRISI Grant proposal for the Keep Ohio Moving project. The rehabilitation and investment in short line railroads is critical to the health of the overall transportation network, and the movement of freight throughout Ohio. The movement of heavy freight on a rail network ensures less congestion and preservation of Ohio's state roads and highway system. Infrastructure investment in the short line rail network will have a direct impact and benefit the following areas:

- **Safety** – This project will allow for continued diversion of heavy freight from congested highways and local roads. The investment mitigates risk for the traveling public, industries, and our employees working the line.
- **Connectivity** – Keeping communities, especially in rural parts of the state, connected to goods and services allows for sustained investment and expanded operations. Short line railroads provide a key transportation component connecting products and commodities to the nationwide transportation network and greatly expands their market capabilities.
- **Economic Development** – Increasing and improving operational capabilities for short line railroads provides better freight mobility by preserving a key piece of logistical infrastructure to both rural and urban communities. This allows for and incentivizes investment in these areas and creates economic opportunities for industrial growth and expansion.

My office has consistently worked to find ways to leverage federal investment to support infrastructure investments in the 16<sup>th</sup> District. Improvement in the short line railroad network signals a long-term investment in the transportation network of our communities and industrial stakeholders. This type of investment ensures that we are looking ahead to the future and for the economic viability of our region and state. Thank you for this opportunity to provide support for this project, and I urge your full and fair consideration of the proposal.

Sincerely,



Anthony Gonzalez  
Member of Congress