

August 27, 2026

The Honorable David A. Fink
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: FR-CRS-26-001

Dear Administrator Fink,

Thank you for your dedication to transforming local community development across the nation. I write today to urge your full and fair consideration of the application for Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company's U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant application to upgrade the Toledo Swing Bridge, which spans approximately 1,300 feet over the Maumee River in Toledo, Ohio. This project is a prudent and necessary investment in freight rail infrastructure that will deliver enduring safety, operational, and economic benefits to Ohio and the broader domestic energy supply chain.

The Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company moves approximately 8,000 carloads across this bridge each year for important energy and construction customers, including Marathon Petroleum and Owens Corning. The bridge, constructed in 1897, has current load capacity constraints that impair the ability to move modern, shorter, and heavier railcars as efficiently as today's rail network and customers require. Improving the structural integrity and load-carrying capacity of the Toledo Swing Bridge will produce an immediate safety benefit by preserving and modernizing a critical freight asset that has served the region for more than a century.

The economic case for this investment is strong. A more capable and reliable bridge will help existing shippers move goods more efficiently, support future domestic energy production growth, and strengthen Toledo's competitiveness as a multimodal freight hub for decades to come. By removing a structural bottleneck on an active rail corridor, this project will improve service reliability, reduce transportation costs related to energy production, and better position the region to retain and attract jobs.

I again urge your full and fair consideration of this proposal. Thank you for your leadership and support to strengthen the nation's rail network.

Sincerely,



Jon Husted
United States Senator