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

August 22, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of the State of Ohio, we commend the Trump administration and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for their commitment to rail safety through the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program. This initiative is vital for enhancing safety and connectivity at highway-rail grade crossings nationwide.

The Ohio Rail Development Commission is preparing 4-7 projects for the next RCE cycle, including a shovel-ready overpass bridge in Salem, Columbiana County. Ohio's $100 million Grade Crossing Elimination Program, funded in the 2024-2025 budget, provides matching funds for projects like Salem's.

This Salem overpass bridge will mitigate disruptions from 48 daily train movements. These trains delay emergency responders, stall local businesses, and create safety risks, including recent crashes. Supported by the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber, this project will also unlock significant investments in Salem, the largest municipality in Columbiana County.

However, these projects await the FRA's next RCE Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). We respectfully urge the FRA to expedite the next RCE NOFO release to enable Ohio to apply for federal funding and advance these critical initiatives.

Thank you for your leadership in improving America's rail infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Michael Rulli
Member of Congress
Ohio's 6th Congressional District

Jon Husted
United States Senator