

May 20, 2014

Senate Infrastructure & Modernization Committee  
Michigan State Senate  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for your review and consideration of new infrastructure funding for Michigan's residents, communities and businesses.

The Michigan Railroads Association (MRA), representing freight railroads who operate in Michigan, supports a comprehensive approach to the infrastructure funding plan. While good roads and bridges are without question vital to a thriving and growing Michigan economy; a robust freight rail infrastructure system is also critical to business expansion across our state. The MRA supports an "all of the above" funding approach.

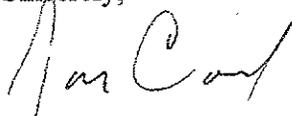
Michigan's freight rail network works closely with the agricultural industry for example. Rail is essential for the movement of many agricultural commodities. Funding from the Comprehensive Transportation Fund - specifically the Freight Economic Development Program (FEDP) - directly assists new and expanding agricultural interests and other rail users as well, to connect with the national rail system. Rail helps the industry export more and more agriculture product to points out of state. Other CTF programs assist with the preservation of the state's rail infrastructure.

Over the last 2 years the FEDP, which requires job commitments and has ongoing shipping requirements, has seen unprecedented interest. Our hope is that businesses continue to grow utilizing this important tool within the CTF.

A strong infrastructure system also helps Michigan's railroads - and trucking companies - serve intermodal customers throughout Michigan. Trans-load facilities and more efficient intermodal operations will help Michigan compete with other logistics hubs in neighboring states. Having infrastructure funding flow through the full, traditional formula helps the CTF provide assistance to an enhanced intermodal system here in Michigan.

Again, thank you for your consideration of new infrastructure funding. The Michigan Railroads Association supports sending the new funding through the full formula, including a share to the Comprehensive Transportation Fund.

Sincerely,



Jon Cool, President  
Michigan Railroads Association