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February 12, 2026

David Fink
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Heartland Rail Connectivity Initiative – Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (FSP) Program Application

Dear Administrator Fink:

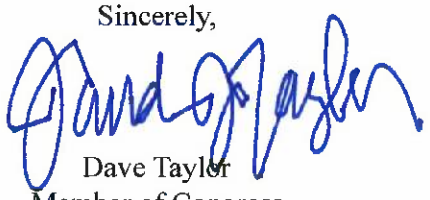
I write in support of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and its partners as applicants for the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (FSP) Program. Central Ohio is the fastest-growing region in the Midwest, and infrastructure is needed to support continued growth.

Per MORPC, the Heartland Rail Connectivity Initiative seeks to bring a market-oriented effort to passenger rail service in Central Ohio and the broader Midwest. Structured as a public-private partnership, the initiative leverages federal investment to attract private capital, support job creation, and strengthen long-term economic competitiveness, while improving mobility and reliability across rural, suburban, and urban communities.

The project would advance two corridors currently in Step 2 of the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development Program: Midwest Connect (Chicago–Fort Wayne–Columbus–Pittsburgh) and 3C+D (Cleveland–Columbus–Dayton–Cincinnati). MORPC and its partners are seeking $6 million to study proposed rail station locations, potential future corridors, safety reviews of potential rail crossings, and evaluate rail-oriented development.

Thank you for giving MORPC's application your full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable statutes and regulations. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Dave Taylor
Member of Congress

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