

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 26, 2026

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

Dear Administrator Fink,

I write in support of the joint application submitted by the Berks County Redevelopment Authority and Eastern Berks Gateway Railroad to the Federal Railroad Administration's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement program. This funding is necessary to complete safety and capacity upgrades to the Colebrookdale Railroad.

The Colebrookdale Railroad is an active freight and heritage tourist railroad connecting Pennsylvania's Berks and Montgomery counties. The railroad, which was nearly abandoned after years of neglect, is now a pillar of this region's economy. The funding requested through this application will enable critical track, bridge, and grade-crossing safety improvements, maximizing freight and tourist operations.

Utilizing state, local, and private contributions, this investment will include new steel ties, a six-inch base relay rail, a restored railway ballast and drainage system, mainline turnout replacement, right-of-way clearing, and maintenance equipment. If funded, I'm confident that this investment will create jobs, reduce vehicle congestion, and bolster economic opportunities for local manufacturers and businesses across the region.

I urge you to give the application full and fair consideration. Feel free to contact my office at (202) 224-4254 if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Fetterman', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

John Fetterman
United States Senator