



Dear Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the SMART Transportation Division, representing the conductors, engineers, yardmasters, and other transportation professionals who safely move America's freight and passenger rail every day, we write to strongly urge your support for the Nehls amendment to the BUILD America 250 Act. This amendment incorporates core rail safety provisions that establish practical national standards to better protect railroad employees, the communities our trains travel through, and the integrity of the national rail network itself.

America's freight and passenger railroads remain essential to the nation's economy and supply chain. The operating crews we represent work around the clock in demanding conditions to ensure freight and passengers reach their destinations safely and efficiently. SMART-TD believes the strongest and most reliable rail system is one built on proven safety practices, qualified railroad professionals, and reasonable operational safeguards. Congressman Troy Nehls's amendment advances those priorities directly. By strengthening railcar inspection standards, improving the handling of hazardous materials, reinforcing wayside detector protocols, and preserving qualified two-person crews, this amendment supports the layered safety protections necessary for modern railroad operations.

We appreciate Congressman Nehls's leadership in advancing these important measures and continuing bipartisan efforts to strengthen rail safety policy in a practical and responsible manner. These provisions reflect long-standing concerns raised not only by railroad workers, but also by local communities, emergency responders, and policymakers focused on maintaining a safe and dependable freight rail system. This amendment represents the kind of commonsense, safety-centered policymaking that helps ensure America's railroads remain efficient, competitive, and resilient for the long term.

We also recognize the broader support these safety measures have received at the federal level as Congress continues work on surface transportation legislation. However, SMART-TD believes the merits of this amendment stand clearly on their own. Railroad transportation employees understand firsthand the importance of maintaining safe operations through proper staffing, effective inspection procedures, and reliable safety technology working together in the field every day.



Supporting the Nehls amendment is a win for railroad safety, a win for rail communities, and a win for the long-term strength of the American supply chain. We respectfully urge Committee Members to **Vote YES** on this important rail safety amendment to the Build America 250 Act.

Thank you for your continued leadership in these matters.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jared Cassity".

Jared Cassity

National Safety & Legislative Director