

Board of Trustees
CINCINNATI SOUTHERN RAILWAY

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Statement

**Paul V. Muething, President,
Cincinnati Southern Railway Board of Trustees
March 31, 2023**

Expressing Appreciation to Governor DeWine and the Ohio Legislature

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Cincinnati Southern Railway (CSR), we express our deepest appreciation to Governor Mike DeWine and the members of the Ohio General Assembly for the passage and signing of House Bill 23, the FY 2024-2025 State of Ohio Transportation Budget. We especially appreciate the involvement and support of Senate and House members from the Cincinnati delegation and Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval.

Included in that legislation were certain provisions negotiated and required by CSR as conditions of the purchase/sale agreement executed with Norfolk Southern (NS) on November 21, 2022. The sale of the railway requires the approval of voters in the City of Cincinnati during an election in 2023 or 2024.

The most significant of the provisions required by CSR is the ability to invest sale proceeds of \$1.62 billion into a professionally managed and diversified trust fund of financial assets from which annual earnings can be used by the City of Cincinnati for existing infrastructure improvements. This use of trust fund earnings will provide substantially more value to the citizens of Cincinnati than continuing to lease the railway. By expert and conservative estimates, as a trust fund, the value of the CSR to the citizens of Cincinnati will be more than double annually what it is now and will continue to grow perpetually. This and other provisions we requested have been retained within the newly enacted legislation.

Additional provisions were included by the Ohio Legislature that now must be reviewed and considered by CSR. In the near future, the CSR Board of Trustees will schedule a special meeting to carefully consider those provisions. Advance public notice of the meeting will be provided at: cincinnati-southern-railway.org.

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