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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NANCY JENKINS-ARNO
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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April 24th, 2025

To the House Appropriations Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support and heartfelt recommendation for the Southern Michigan Railroad, a vital and historic institution located in Lenawee County. As a long-standing part of our local heritage, the Southern Michigan Railroad is more than just a transportation line—it is a living symbol of our community's industrial legacy, a dedicated local employer, and an important contributor to our regional identity.

For decades, the Southern Michigan Railroad has connected people, history, and industry in our region. Its role in preserving our area's rich railroad heritage has made it a beloved attraction for residents and visitors alike, while also supporting local tourism and education. Furthermore, its operation provides jobs and economic stimulation for our county, reinforcing its importance as a community pillar.

However, as with many historic infrastructures, the Southern Michigan Railroad now faces a critical need for upgrades and repairs. Essential improvements—including bridge rehabilitation, bridge deck replacement, tie replacement, and other critical infrastructure updates—are necessary to ensure the continued safety, reliability, and functionality of the railroad. These investments are not only a matter of preservation but of public safety and economic vitality for the region.

I urge decision-makers and funding bodies to give full consideration to the needs of the Southern Michigan Railroad. Supporting these upgrades is an investment in our local history, our economy, and the continued growth of Lenawee County and the State of Michigan.

Sincerely,

Nancy Jenkins-Arno
State Representative
District 34