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# Michigan Railroads Association

Jon Cool, President

## Presentation to the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

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**MRA**

MICHIGAN  
RAILROADS  
ASSOCIATION



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## Freight Railroads Operating in Michigan

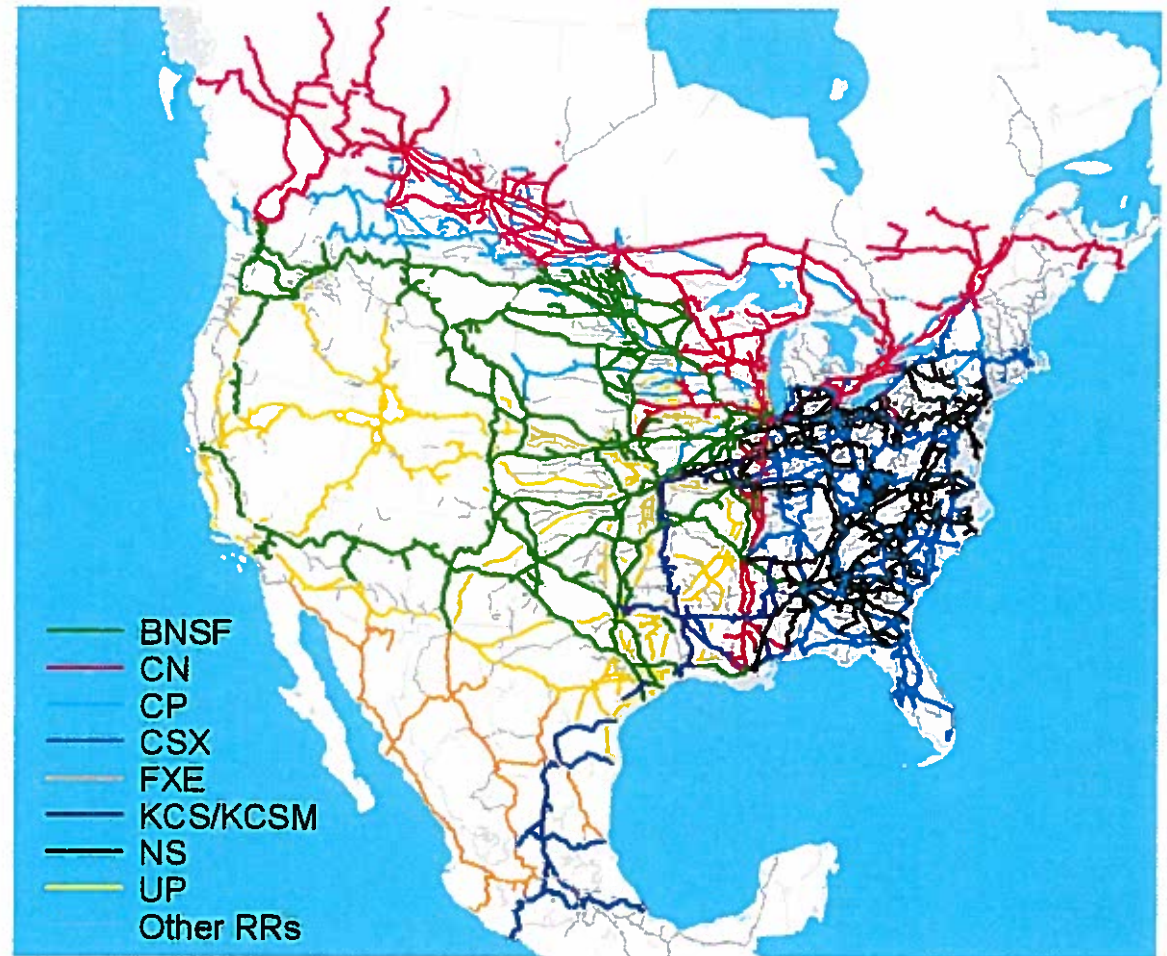
- 4 Class 1 Railroads
  - CN, CP, CSX & NS
- 24 Shortline Railroads
  - Operate anywhere from 2 to 400 mile systems

**“Railroads provide significant paying jobs with strong benefit packages.”**

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# 138,000 Mile North American Rail Network

- Michigan's railroads connect to the world economy.
- Commodities end up across the nation & ports heading to overseas' destinations.
- Railroads pick up goods at ports that end up in Michigan.



## Freight Rail Investment

“Freight railroads invest billions of dollars of their own capital, not taxpayer money, to build and maintain a rail network that is safe, reliable, efficient and affordable”



# Freight Railroads Reduce Highway Congestion

- A 2015 study showed that highway congestion costs Americans \$160 billion every year in wasted time and fuel.
- Lost productivity, cargo delays, and other costs add tens of billions of dollars to this tab.
- Since a typical rail car replaces 3-4 trucks, railroads help relieve highway gridlock.



# Freight Rail is Safe

- 99.98% Safety Record
- Highly Regulated Industry
- Specialized First Responder Training In Michigan and Nationally



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## Industry Commitment To Safety



Detroit Training Exercise

- Local, State and Federal Safety Training Across Michigan
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## **Michigan Rail Programs**

### **➤ Traffic Safety**

- Active warning devices (lights, cantilevers, gates, bells)

### **➤ New Local Surface Crossing Program**

- 60/40 cost share

### **➤ Freight Economic Development Program (FEDP)**

- Connects businesses with the rail network
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# Operation Lifesaver

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Trespassing on rail and transit tracks or violating rail crossing laws is a losing proposition.

**WHEN YOU SEE TRACKS, ALWAYS THINK TRAIN!**

# CAR VS TRAIN



**IT'S NO CONTEST.**



**Every day, people are injured or killed trying to beat a train.**



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## Conclusion:

- Freight Rail Invests
- Safety & Training
- Fuel Efficient
- Ease Highway Congestion

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