



American Association of  
State Highway and  
Transportation Officials



ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICAN RAILROADS

June 23, 2003

The Honorable James Inhofe  
Chairman  
Environment and Public Works Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Jeffords  
Ranking Member  
Environment and Public Works Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Bond  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
Environment and Public Works Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Transportation and Infrastructure  
Environment and Public Works Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

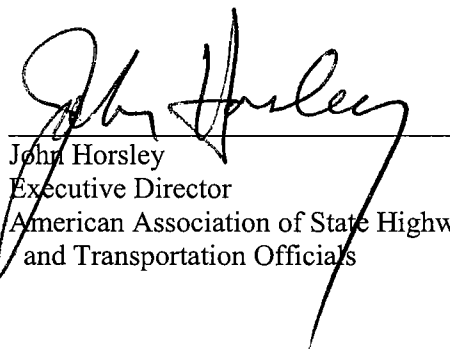
On behalf of our organizations -- the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Association of American Railroads (AAR) -- we are writing to express opposition to proposals to eliminate dedicated funding for the Section 130 highway grade-crossing program. Both AASHTO and AAR believe funding for the program should be increased.

The Highway Safety Act of 1973 created Section 130 to enhance safety at grade crossings. Under the program, at least \$155 million has been apportioned each year to states for installation of new warning devices, the upgrade of existing devices, and the replacement and improvement of grade-crossing surfaces. The Federal Highway Administration estimates that 10,000 lives have been saved and an estimated 40,000 serious injuries avoided through this program since 1974.

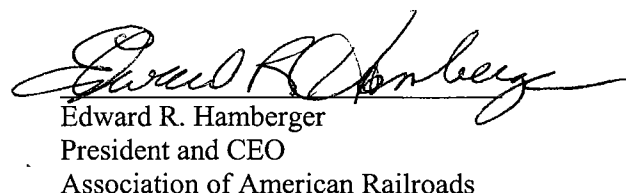
Without funding dedicated to the Section 130 program, grade-crossing improvements would likely fare poorly in competition with other highway needs. In fact, the primary reason that Congress established a separate grade-crossing program was that highway safety -- particularly grade-crossing safety -- was not adequately funded at the time.

AASHTO and AAR urge you to support -- and increase -- dedicated funding for the Section 130 program.

Sincerely,



John Horsley  
Executive Director  
American Association of State Highway  
and Transportation Officials



Edward R. Hamberger  
President and CEO  
Association of American Railroads