



For Immediate Release
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ODOT Delivers Solid Case to Move Forward with 3C Rail Plan

OEC urges Ohio General Assembly leaders to give a green light to investing \$25 million in engineering and design work

Statement of Ohio Environmental Council's Deputy Director Jack Shaner on ODOT Director Jolene Molitoris' letter regarding 3C passenger rail proposal delivered today to Ohio Senate President Bill Harris:

“Senate President Harris has asked good, hard, fair questions. And ODOT has responded with good, credible, fact-based information.

Even more questions and information exchange opportunities will occur in this important debate—that’s fair game.

But Ohio should not risk passing up this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to invest in the future vitality of our state. Nearly every state in our region is moving forward with plans for an interconnected Midwest passenger rail system. Ohio should get on board and not watch this train of economic prosperity and environmental benefit pass us by.

We urge Ohio’s legislative leaders to give a green light to ODOT’s request to spend \$25 million of the \$400 million federal stimulus award for the final environmental study and engineering and design work.

These critical studies will provide definitive and detailed information about what it will take to complete the 3C rail project. Ohio should take this sensible next step right away.

The experience of states with state-funded passenger rail systems suggests that Ohio has much to gain from moving forward. Now is the time to act.”

For more information:

ODOT letter to Ohio Senate - <http://bit.ly/9NUeoC>

ODOT 3C “Quick Start” Passenger Rail Plan - <http://bit.ly/RrkBV>

Linking Ohio - www.linkingohio.com

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The mission of the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) is to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home. The OEC is Ohio's leading advocate for fresh air, clean water, and sustainable land use. The OEC has a 40-year history of innovation, pragmatism, and success. Using legislative initiatives, legal action, scientific principles, and statewide partnerships, the OEC secures a healthier environment for Ohio's families and communities. For more information, visit www.theOEC.org.