



March 6th, 2023

Chairman Mike Peterson
Committee on Transportation
Kansas State Legislature, Senate
State Capitol, Room 546-S
300 South West 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612

Mr. Chairman & Members of the committee,

The Chicago Rock Island & Pacific Railroad supports SB271.

The Chicago Rock Island & Pacific Railroad LLC ([AAR-reporting mark RI](#)) is an American Class III railroad—primarily a shortline holding company—while also providing numerous other railroad services such as switching, railroad management, railcar fleet management, railcar storage, and locomotive maintenance across the nation.

The company acquired its first railroad in early 2019 with the acquisition of the Mississippi Delta Railroad, the Gulf & Ship Island Railroad, and the recently acquired the Midland Railway in Baldwin City, Kansas.

We look forward to being partners in the Kansas economy and providing safe and efficient freight railroad access to your communities. Safety is paramount in our industry. Many will say it's their number one priority. On the Rock Island and its subsidiary railroads, safety is and always will be paramount. For this reason, we support SB217 and other rail safety improvements.

Blocked or crowded crossings due to standing equipment are dangerous for our employees and the public. It is my company's policy always to maintain 250ft of clearance at crossings.

Excessive train lengths also present unique circumstances that are not conducive to sound policy and public safety if operated over territory that does not have the infrastructure capable of handling "Super Trains." Most rail lines that are not double-tracked require train meets in areas where sidings are in populated areas. As a result, more crossings get blocked and stay blocked for extended periods of time. This prevents or prolongs EMS response times and in general, public inconvenience. Longer trains also take longer to stop and in these cases of a derailment at speed, contribute to the severity of the derailment.

Being good neighbors and partners in Kansas, we take pride in the jobs we bring and the service we provide our customers. We take our responsibility of shipping our nation's products safely and efficiently very seriously. That is why we believe two individuals should always be operating our trains. It's a matter of safety, efficiency, and partnerships with our customers.

Members of the committee, we ask you to support SB271.

Sincerely,



Robert Riley, CEO
Chicago Rock Island & Pacific Railroad LLC
Mississippi Delta Railroad
Gulf & Ship Island Railroad
Ottawa Northern Railroad

