

May 17, 2024

The Honorable Amit Bose, Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: **Watco's 2023/2024 CRISI Grant Program Application: "Strategic Bridge Improvement and Sustainability Project"**

Dear Administrator Bose:

On behalf of Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions (Ergon A&E), I want to extend my full support for Watco's 2023/2024 CRISI Grant Application - *Strategic Bridge Improvement and Sustainability Project*. This project proposes to complete at least 30% preliminary engineering and design work, including all environmental work, for 116 strategic railroad bridges that traverse waterways across the entire Watco network. These bridges are critical to safe and efficient railroad service to our facilities.

Ergon A&E is considered *The Resource* in the asphalt industry, providing premium quality solutions, technical support, education and training to help agencies achieve optimum roadway performance. Our asphalt solutions are designed to extend the life of roadways. We manufacture and market liquid asphalt binders, asphalt emulsions and a wide variety of advanced asphalt products. Our polymer modified asphalt is used on expressways, urban roads, airport tarmacs and other high-traffic areas. Ergon A&E is the largest asphalt emulsion marketer in North America and a pioneer in pavement preservation.

Further weight restrictions and/or rail service disruptions due to the condition of the bridges that serve our facilities would severely impact the economics of our business model and would result in more truck traffic navigating local roads through business, commercial and residential areas to reach our plant. I understand Watco is applying for a federal CRISI grant of \$15.2M and will be providing a local match of \$3.8M if awarded. I applaud Watco for taking this big step forward in trying to address its infrastructure challenges today and in the future.





Ergon A&E supports modern infrastructure that helps our economy grow and enhances the safety of the communities we call home. Therefore, we certainly support this CRISI grant application.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Drew Brooks'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Drew Brooks  
Senior Vice President  
Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions Inc.