



Christopher L. Boerm  
President, Transportation  
4666 Faries Parkway  
Decatur, IL 62526

May 20, 2024

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

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

Dear Administrator Bose,

ADM is pleased to support 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 many of ADM's facilities.

Please consider that weight restrictions and/or rail service disruptions due to the condition of bridges that serve our facilities impact the economics, efficiency of careful logistical planning of transportation. 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 appreciate Watco for preparing this proposal and urge your support in assisting them in addressing these critical infrastructure challenges.

As you evaluate Watco's bridge project, I also request that you take into consideration ADM's presence in the inland waterways industry. ADM owns ARTCO, a major tow-boat and barge company that operates on the inland river system of the U.S. Addressing the condition of bridges that traverse our nation's waterways is critical not solely for the efficiency and safety of our rail system but also for the safety of the inland river system that flows beneath it. In the end, modern bridges ensure a safe, efficient and redundant transportation system.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher L. Boerm".

Christopher L. Boerm  
President  
ADM Transportation

