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United States Senate

COMMITTEES: APPROPRIATIONS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS RANKING MEMBER

May 16, 2024

The Honorable Amit Bose U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration 1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Administrator Bose,

I write in support of Watco Companies and their application for assistance through the Federal Railroad Administration's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Program.

Their Strategic Bridge Improvement and Sustainability 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, including 33 railroad bridges in the state of Kansas. These bridges are critical to safe and efficient railroad service to communities throughout our state. If these bridges ever fail, rail service could be impacted for an indefinite period of time and there will be widespread consequences to our transportation and agricultural industries.

Through modernization of our infrastructure, we support economic growth and enable communities to prosper. Safe and efficient flow of commerce, surface and maritime, is essential in today's world and rail service accomplishes this in a reliable and cost-effective manner. Forming partnerships with public and private sector partners with the goal of increased investment in transportation infrastructure is vital to the future of customers and businesses alike.

Thank you for your consideration of their application.

Sincerely,

Jerry Moran

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