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May 20, 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 Torborgs lumber, 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. Four of these bridges are critical to safe and efficient railroad service by Watco's Fox Valley & Lake Superior Rail System (FOXY) to our facility in Shawano, WI .

Torborgs Lumber is a family owned and operated building materials distributor with three locations in Wisconsin and rail access on the FOXY at our Shawano, WI site. Rail access is important in allowing for the purchases of lumber and panel materials directly from mills across North America and reducing the need to buy from distributors and receive more truck shipments to supply our sites.

Further weight restrictions and/or rail service disruptions due to the condition of the bridge(s) that serve our facility(s) 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.

Torborgs Lumber supports modern infrastructure that helps our economy grow and enhances the safety of the communities we call home, and certainly supports this CRISI grant application.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Torborg", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Bob Torborg
Torborgs Lumber