



TULSA PORTS
BARGE · RAIL · INDUSTRIAL PARK
CATOOSA · INOLA

May 23, 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;

Tulsa Ports wishes to express our support of 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 facility located near Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Tulsa Ports operates two, 2,000-acre industrial park and inland waterway ports in Northeast Oklahoma. One of those locations, the Tulsa Port of Catoosa (TPOC), has been doing business since 1971 and is directly served by Watco. The TPOC has over 70 industrial and agricultural tenants, handles over 2 million tons of waterborne freight per year, and switches over 8,000 railcars annually. The TPOC benefits by being located at a major crossroad of the Nation's railroad network with convenient connectivity between the rail, state and federal highway systems, and the inland waterways.

Further weight restrictions and/or rail service disruptions due to the condition of the bridges that directly serve the TPOC would severely impact the economics of our tenants and shippers and would result in more truck traffic on congested roads and highway. Watco is applying for a federal CRISI grant of \$15.2M and will be providing a local match of \$3.8M if awarded. We support and applaud Watco for taking this big step forward in trying to address its' infrastructure challenges today and in the future. These enhancements will ensure our continued growth.

Tulsa Ports supports modern infrastructure that helps our economy grow, enhances the safety of the communities we call home, and reduces emissions and energy consumption. We support this CRISI grant application and ask for your consideration in its award.

Respectfully,

David Yarbrough, PE,
Executive Director