



P.O. Box 1880
8920 8th Street
Great Bend, Kansas 67530

May 15, 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 Venture Aggregate, 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 facility(s).

Venture Aggregate partners with Watco to rail in cement and aggregates from South East Kansas to supply materials to various construction companies. Without upgraded rail lines, this may not be possible.

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.

Venture Aggregate 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,

Kameron Spray
Venture Aggregate



May 15, 2024

Post Office Box 1486
214 S. Hwy 281
Great Bend, Kansas 67530

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

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Venture Corporation purchases cement and aggregate from companies that the Watco delivers by rail. Without this service, there would not be enough cement and aggregates to meet the demand of the industry.

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Respectfully,

William R. Seybert
Venture Corporation