

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 WSI, we want to extend our 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).

Warehouse Specialists, LLC (WSI) is a leading 3<sup>rd</sup> party logistics solutions provider, with an extensive network of rail-served warehouses and strong ties to Class 1 railroads. Through a commitment to excellence and a focus on customer satisfaction, WSI has been a trusted partner for businesses seeking efficient and cost-effective supply chain solutions for over 58 years.

Further weight restrictions and/or rail service disruptions due to the condition of the bridge(s) that serve our facilities would severely impact the economics of our business model and our customers, which would result in more truck traffic navigating local roads through business, commercial and residential areas to reach our facilities. We understand Watco is applying for a federal CRISI grant of \$15.2M and will be providing a local match of \$3.8M if awarded. WSI applauds Watco for taking this big step forward in trying to address its' infrastructure challenges today and in the future.

WSI 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.

Best regards,



**Robert J. Schroeder**  
CEO



**Paul Simmons**  
President



**Benjamin J. Haupt**  
General Counsel

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