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May 31, 2024

Mr. Amit Bose
Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Administrator Bose:

It has recently come to my attention that Watco is applying for funding from the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program. They are requesting \$15.2 million for their Strategic Bridge Improvement and Sustainability Project. The company anticipates providing a match of \$3.8 million.

Watco plans to use the funds to complete at least 30 percent preliminary engineering and design work, including all environmental work, for 116 strategic bridges in their rail system. This includes \$1,844,850 on four bridges in Louisiana; Hope-71.5, Princeton-80.7, Princeton-90.4, and Hodge South-A195.70. Once these bridges are upgraded or replaced, Watco's rail system will be able to handle heavier weights with fewer disruptions to their operations, their business partners, and the communities they serve.

I appreciate your consideration of this application. I ask that you please keep my office informed on the progress of this proposal as well as when a final decision has been made regarding this grant. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michael Eby in my Baton Rouge Office at (225) 929-7711.

Sincerely,



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

BC/ME