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**John Mitchell**  
County Manager

**Amy Brantley**  
Assistant County Manager

November 3, 2021

Amit Bose, Acting Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W38-212  
Washington, DC 20590

*RE: FY21 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program submitted by the Blue Ridge Southern Railroad*

Dear Administrator Bose:

On behalf of Henderson County Administration, we are pleased to submit this letter of support for the Blue Ridge Southern Railroad's (BLU) FY21 CRISI grant application entitled *Blue Ridge Short Line Safety & Capacity Expansion Project*.

As the only short line railroad that connects our county to the national network, the BLU provides a critical link for the local shippers and employers in Henderson County. We are excited to support this grant as it will improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of their lines to include upgrades to at-grade crossings.

Henderson County takes great pride in being proactive, efficient, and always looking out for the safety and welfare of our citizens, and we believe this project speaks to all of these values and goals. We hope that you consider the BLU's application favorably. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

John B. Mitchell  
County Manager