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## Congress of the United States

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### Washington, DC 20515

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBER, INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES  
AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

November 5, 2021

Amit Bose  
Acting Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey SE  
Washington DC 20590

Acting Administrator Bose,

I am writing in support of the “**The Rural Louisiana Short Line Rail Modernization Initiative**,” filed by the Louisiana Southern Railroad (LAS) with the Louisiana Department of Transportation (LADOTD), Watco and Kansas City Southern (KCS) as project partners.

I have been informed the \$17 million project will help build additional capacity for our rural rail network spurring economic development and job creation in the area. The Louisiana Southern Railroad provides customers in central rural Louisiana vital rail services connecting them to the national freight network. The LAS moves a wide range of commodities including paper, chemicals, agricultural commodities and forestry products.

I am told rail service is currently provided at 10 mph or less speed. Due to safety restrictions, customers must “light load” their rail cars to 263k pounds which is less than the modern standard of 286k pounds. This project, which would upgrade 40 miles of track to 286k, will allow customers to fully utilize a modern rail network and attract new business along the line while keeping additional rail traffic off Louisiana's roads.

This project is the first step in realizing the goal of 286k rail across Louisiana’s short line rail network. It will have significant positive impacts on safety, economic growth and fuel usage. The project aligns with the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement grant program and is supported by local, state and national stakeholders.

I ask for your full and fair consideration of this proposal. A report of the final decision would be helpful and appreciated. I may be reached through Pam Gras at [Pam.Gras@mail.house.gov](mailto:Pam.Gras@mail.house.gov) or 218-840-0309. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Mike Johnson  
Member of Congress