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September 22, 2021

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

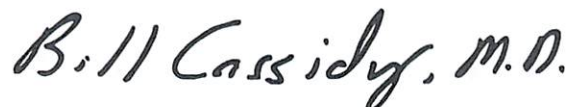
Dear Mr. Bose:

It has recently come to my attention that the Louisiana Southern Railroad is applying for funding from the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program. They are requesting \$17 million for their Rural Louisiana Short Line Rail Modernization Initiative project .

Louisiana Southern Railroad, in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Kansas City Southern, and Watco, plan to use the funds to upgrade 40 miles of track along the Hodge to Gibsland, Louisiana line. Specifically, the improvements are designed to allow the new, standard 286,000 pound railcars to travel along the tracks at 40 miles per hour instead of their currently reduced speed of 10 miles per hour. The partners anticipate the improvements will increase the capacity of the line; enhance safety at highway crossings; reduce fuel usage; and result in fewer trucks on the highways.

I appreciate your agency's 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