



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad Hosts Senator Moran at CRISI Grant Celebration

CHERRYVALE, Kansas (June 30, 2022) — The South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad (SKOL) was honored to host Sen. Jerry Moran of Kansas at an event today celebrating the beginning of construction on a \$27 million Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant. Moran played a key role in obtaining the funding by promoting it and providing a letter of support to the Federal Railroad Administration.

“This grant will provide valuable improvements to the rail system that runs through several rural communities in Kansas,” said Sen. Moran. “Modernizations to the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad will improve safety and efficiency while allowing heavier shipments to travel across the region providing new economic opportunities to our farmers and manufacturers in rural Kansas.”

The grant was awarded to the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) for use on the SKOL project, with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) as a match participant. In addition to the CRISI funding, \$12.7 million is being contributed by Watco/SKOL, \$1 million by KDOT and \$450,000 by ODOT.

Jerry Waun, SKOL general manager, said, “The SKOL team members are excited that the improvements are under way and appreciate all the help Senator Moran provided to get us here. They know more than anyone the positive impact the upgrades will have on the service we can provide our customers.

“We’ve been wanting to make the upgrades to track structure and substructure such as rail, ties, ballast, surface, turnouts and bridges for a long time, but they were very expensive upgrades to make happen. The funding will allow us to upgrade 239 miles of the 433-mile network.”

About Watco

Watco is a leading transportation service and logistics company. Meeting customer needs on a day-to-day basis has enabled Watco to continually grow throughout our nearly 40-year history. Today, Watco provides transportation, material handling and warehousing, logistics, railcar repair, and design and development for customers throughout North America and Australia. For more information, visit www.watco.com.

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