

OPS Sales Company

May 20, 2024

The Honorable Amit Bose, Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Watco's 2023/2024 CRISI Grant Program Application: "Strategic Bridge Improvement and Sustainability Project"

Dear Administrator Bose:

On behalf of OPS Sales Company I want to extend my full support for Watco's 2023/2024 CRISI Grant Application – Strategic Bridge Improvement and Sustainability Project. This project proposes to complete at least 30% preliminary engineering and design work, including all environmental work, for 116 strategic bridges that traverse waterways across the entire Watco network. These bridges are critical to safe and efficient railroad service to our facility.

OPS Sales Company is in the steel business and receives a lot of its inbound pipe, plate and coil by rail and ships out most of its scrap by rail. Further weight restrictions and/or rail service disruptions due to the condition of the bridges crossed to serve our facility would severely impact the economics of our business model and would result in more truck traffic navigating through local roads through business, commercial and residential areas to reach our plant....and some purchasing avenues would end if rail would be affected. I understand Watco is applying for a federal CRISI grant of \$15.25M and will be providing a local match of \$3.8M if awarded. I commend Watco for taking this big step forward in trying to address its infrastructure challenges today and into the future.

OPS Sales Company supports modern infrastructure that helps our economy grow and enhances the safety of the communities we call home, and certainly supports this CRISI grant application.



Brian Kimrey
President

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