



May 17, 2024

The Honorable Amit Bose, Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, 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 The Scoular 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 railroad bridges that traverse waterways across the entire Watco network. These bridges are critical to safe and efficient railroad service to our facility(s).

Scoular is a company that strives to create safe, reliable, and innovative agricultural supply chain solutions in the industries it serves. With offices and facilities worldwide, Scoular manages the buying, selling, storing, handling, and processing of grain and ingredients, as well as transportation and logistics. In 2015, Scoular expanded its operations by acquiring a grain handling facility near Pittsburg, KS, on the SKOL. This facility handles a variety of grains and ingredients, including corn, wheat, beans, sorghum, and inbound pet food ingredients.

Further weight restrictions and/or rail service disruptions due to the condition of the bridge(s) that serve our facility(s) would severely impact the economics of our business model and would result in more truck traffic navigating local roads through business, commercial and residential areas to reach our plant. I understand Watco is applying for a federal CRISI grant of \$15.2M and will be providing a local match of \$3.8M if awarded. I applaud Watco for taking this big step forward in trying to address its' infrastructure challenges today and in the future.

The Scoular 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.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cody Mills'.

Cody Mills
The Scoular Company