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May 29, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20003-3660

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

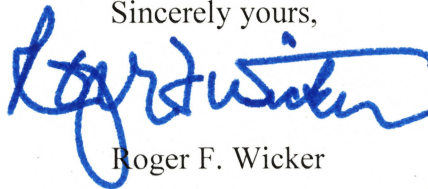
I would like to express my support for Watco's application for a Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant.

With funding from the Department of Transportation, Watco intends to complete at least thirty percent preliminary engineering and design work, including all environmental work, for 116 strategic railroad bridges that traverse waterways across the entire Watco network, including nine railroad bridges in the state of Mississippi. These bridges are critical to safe and efficient railroad service to communities throughout Mississippi. Safe and efficient flow of commerce, surface and maritime, is essential to the growth and prosperity of our region and state.

I hope that you will give Watco's application every consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Roger F. Wicker

RFW/MAB