



J. R. Simplot Company  
P.O. Box 27  
Boise, Idaho 83707 0027

May 15, 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 J. R. Simplot Company (Simplot), I want to extend my full support for Watco's 2023/2024 CRISI Grant Application - *Strategic Bridge Improvement and Sustainability Project*. I understand 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 facilities.

Established in the late 1920s in southern Idaho, the J.R. Simplot Company has grown into a global leader in food and agriculture under the visionary leadership of J.R. Simplot. Today, headquartered in Boise, Idaho, Simplot operates as an international food and agriculture enterprise with over 13,000 employees worldwide. Simplot's operations in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Australia, Argentina, and China provide a diverse array of products and services to a global clientele. Ongoing investment in rail infrastructure ensures reliable transport of goods for decades to come, supporting the company's long-term growth and sustainability objectives.

Further weight restrictions and/or rail service disruptions due to the condition of the bridges that serve our facilities would severely impact the economics of our business model and would likely 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.



Page 2

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

Simplot 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, appearing to read "Doug Stone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "D" being particularly large and prominent.

Doug Stone  
President, Agribusiness

