



WALKER PRODUCE CO., INC
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May 16, 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 Walker Produce Co, we extend our full support for Watco's 2023/2024 CRISI Grant Application - *Strategic Bridge Improvement and Sustainability Project*. We understand that 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. We believe these bridges are critical to safe and efficient railroad service to our facility(s).

Located in Eastern Idaho, Walker Produce Co. is a long-standing family-owned company rooted in timeless principles for more than 70 years. Founded on a commitment to quality, we specialize in processing a diverse range of high-quality produce grown right here in Idaho. With a focus on excellence and freshness, we honor the region's rich agricultural heritage while embracing modern techniques to deliver exceptional products to our customers. As a trusted name in the industry, Walker Produce Co. continues to uphold its legacy of integrity and quality, ensuring satisfaction with our food service and retail customers across the USA.

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.

Lorin Walker and Walker Produce Co. supports this CRISI grant application.

Respectfully,

Lorin Walker