

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1304

June 6, 2024

Mr. Amit Bose, Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

I am writing regarding Watco's application for the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program for its Strategic Bridge Improvement and Sustainability Project.

This federal funding would allow Watco to complete the Preliminary Engineering and Design component of this project, including at least 30% of the preliminary engineering and design work and all environmental work, for 116 strategic railroad bridges that traverse waterways across the entire Watco network, including three railroad bridges in the state of Illinois. These bridges are critical to safe and efficient railroad service to communities throughout our state and region. If these bridges fail, rail service would be impacted for an indefinite period of time, and it could cause disruptions to the transportation and agricultural industries.

Safe and efficient flow of commerce is essential to the growth and development of the region and the state of Illinois. Forming partnerships between the public and private sector, with the goal of increased investment in transportation infrastructure, is vital to the future of the region, the residents, and businesses in Illinois.

Please give full and fair consideration to Watco's application. If you require additional information, please contact my State Director, Clarisol Duque, at (312) 353-4952.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator