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WASHINGTON



United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

June 25, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Elma Junction Safety, Capacity, and Efficiency Project CRISI Grant Request

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing in support of Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad's (PSAP) application to the FY 2020 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program for the Elma Junction Safety, Capacity, and Efficiency Project.

PSAP provides rail services in southwest Washington, connecting the region to the national rail network through interchanges with BNSF and Union Pacific in Centralia. According to PSAP, three PSAP lines pass through the City of Elma to move freight to and from Hoquiam and the Port of Grays Harbor to the west, and Bremerton and Bangor to the north. The current track configuration causes trains to occupy several at-grade crossings through downtown Elma, causing significant traffic delays.

The Elma Junction Safety, Capacity, and Efficiency Project will construct a new double-ended siding immediately south of Elma and install two radio-controlled power switches at the Elma Wye. This will allow PSAP trains to operate without occupying any downtown at-grade crossings and the addition of the radio power-controlled switches will allow PSAP trains to move continuously through Elma without stopping. This project will decrease congestion in Elma, improve safety and improve freight efficiency.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration to Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad's application to the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program.

Sincerely,

Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator