

MARIA CANTWELL
WASHINGTON



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

February 2, 2023

Amit Bose
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose,

I am writing in support of the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) application to the FY22 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program for the Washington State Rural Rail Rehabilitation, Phase II: Improving Supply Chain Efficiency and Resiliency project.

WSDOT is requesting \$72.8 million in CRISI funding to make significant improvements to 135-miles of the 298-mile state-owned Palouse River and Coulee City (PCC) Shortline Rail System in eastern Washington State. Improvements include replacement of light weight worn rail, replacement of rotten railroad ties, rebuilding dilapidated roadway crossings, and surfacing of tracks. Coupled with previous improvements made using BUILD funding, this project will build the PCC Railway System to a state of good repair.

This project will help ensure rural eastern Washington agricultural products remain competitive in the global marketplace. Rehabilitation of this freight corridor is important to maintain the region's economic viability. By keeping rail shipments available and competitive, this project will reduce road maintenance, enhance economic development, improve the environment, and bring long-term jobs to rural communities.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of WSDOT's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Cantwell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator