

May 8, 2024

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg  
Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Amit Bose  
Administrator, Federal R.R. Admin.  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg and Administrator Bose:

We are writing to express our support for the application submitted by the Red River Valley & Western Railroad Company (RRVW) to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 – 2024 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program to fund their Safety Enhancements and Capacity Upgrades for Reliability and Efficiency (SECURE) Project. Thank you for your consideration.

The RRVW provides rail connections to domestic and international markets for North Dakota farmers, agriculture processors, and manufacturers. For many of the communities served, RRVW is the only way for customers to connect to the national rail network. Maintaining and improving transportation infrastructure is critical for the safe and efficient transportation of goods across the United States and is a major component of North Dakota's strategic economic development framework.

Since 2018, RRVW has identified and remediated 56 rail defects and 6 broken rails for a total of 62 in this 25-mile section of track. While RRVW has been a safe operator, the average age of the rail in this 25-mile section is 108 years old, and RRVW could soon experience more serious rail failures in rural North Dakota. The RRVW initiated the SECURE Project to address these safety concerns.

If awarded, RRVW will utilize CRISI funding to improve RRVW's "3<sup>rd</sup> Subdivision" between Gwinner and Oakes, North Dakota. The SECURE Project will replace the century-old rail with newer and more modern rail. This will greatly reduce rail defects and derailments, increasing safety and reliability. SECURE will also install two new rail sidings near the Casselton, ND connection to BNSF. These two new sidings will decrease congestion as trains are interchanged between BNSF and RRVW, thereby increasing capacity, reliability, and efficiency for RRVW customers.

Accordingly, we hope this application receives your favorable consideration, and all of North Dakota's applications receive your full and fair consideration. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. Please keep us informed of the review process, and feel free to contact our offices with any updates or inquiries you may have.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven  
U.S. Senator

Kevin Cramer  
U.S. Senator



Kelly Armstrong  
U.S. Congressman