

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

October 18, 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg  
Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Transportation  
Ninth Floor, West Building  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590-9898

The Honorable Amit Bose  
Administrator, FRA  
Room W30-310, West Building  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590-9898

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) 2022 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements grant program. Thank you for your consideration.

Currently, a new \$400 million soybean crushing facility is under construction in Casselton, North Dakota, which will process soybeans into soybean meal used for animal feed and soybean oil used primarily for renewable diesel fuel. By drawing soybeans from the surrounding area, this plant will shift North Dakota farmers away from exporting raw commodities out of state and will instead add value to those commodities right here at home. Doing so will reduce transport costs and improve the prices paid to soybean growers.

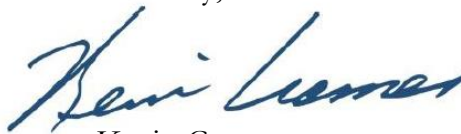
A safe, resilient, and efficient short line railroad network is essential to moving soybeans to the Casselton plant as well as other grain throughout the Red River Valley. More than 10,000 new rail carloads per year of soybeans, soybean oils, and soymeal are expected to move over RRVW's Second Subdivision between Casselton and Wahpeton ("2<sup>nd</sup> Sub") once this plant is online. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sub must be upgraded to continuous welded rail to avoid either diverting soybeans on a more than hundred-mile detour or shipping soybeans by truck. The Safe Grains Project will keep North Dakota soybeans and other grain on North Dakota short line railroads and on the most efficient route, while increasing rail safety and bolstering the rural North Dakota economy.

Accordingly, we hope this application receives your favorable consideration, and that 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  
US Senator



Kevin Cramer  
US Senator



Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress