

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 28, 2019

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

Re: Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Grants Program Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Grants Program (CRISI) application submitted by The Madison Railroad, a Division of City of Madison Port Authority (CMPA).

The CMPA applied for the CRISI grant to replace the Graham Creek Bridge, which connects Jefferson and Jennings counties in rural southeast Indiana. Initially constructed in 1880, the Graham Creek Bridge has been identified as a fracture critical bridge. This critical designation indicates that failure of minor structural components could result in a catastrophic collapse with little warning.

The proposed project aims to benefit the City of Madison by removing a potential safety risk in America's rail network and updating its durability to ensure the heaviest commercial freight carloads can utilize this structural asset.

The impending loss of rail transportation would have a detrimental impact to the rural economic communities served by the Madison Railroad. Many job creators in the Madison region located to this area because of the community's rail infrastructure. Were this community to lose rail service and access to the national network, the Madison community would struggle to compete for new economic development opportunities.

I believe this project is of vital importance to the continued economic success of the Madison community. Please give this application your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Todd Young
United States Senator