



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

December 1, 2022

Amit Bose, Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administration  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

It is with great enthusiasm I write to you about the Vermont Agency of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant application, the "Tri-State Regional Rail Upgrade Project."

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) has partnered with the States of Vermont and Maine on this strategic freight transportation grant project, with Vermont as the lead applicant. Matching funds are being provided by both NHDOT and Maine DOT, as well as the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad (SLR) to make the project a very innovative public-private partnership. After years of investment in this corridor by the State of New Hampshire and the SLR, this is the final work needed to complete the three-state modern heavy haul rail freight corridor. The project will provide 286,000 lb. railcar weight capacity to current and future New Hampshire businesses as well as achieve a state of good repair. Railcar shipments on this corridor are currently restricted to 263,000 lbs. gross weight, which results in inefficient shipment of partially loaded freight cars over long distances. To overcome this competitive disadvantage, this project is needed.

As part of this project, the existing SLR mainline will receive new, heavier welded rail, ties, and ballasts. This project will continue efforts by the SLR and the three states over many years to upgrade the SLR main line into a state of good repair, enhance safety, and allow fully loaded modern rail car shipments.

Having access to the national rail freight network is very important for supply chain efficiency. Current commodities shipped into our state via rail include plastics for manufacturing, propane for heating homes and businesses, and wood pulp for tissue manufacturing. This region of our state does not have access to the Interstate highway system, making the preservation and modernization of this rail corridor even more a priority.

I ask that you please give this CRISI application serious consideration for selection and award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor