ERIN HOUCHIN
9TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
COMMITTEE ON RULES
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1409

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June 22, 2026

The Honorable David Fink
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20590

To the Honorable David Fink:

As the Congresswoman representing the 9th District of Indiana, I write to affirm my support for Madison Railroad's application of federal grant funding through the Federal Railroad Administration's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program. The Madison Railroad's Southeastern Indiana Corridor Improvement project includes work in primarily in rural areas of Jennings and Jefferson counties, Indiana. Madison Railroad, A Division of the City of Madison Port Authority, is proposing track and signal infrastructure upgrades along the national rail network for customer and public benefit between North Vernon and Madison, Indiana. Madison Railroad provides vital rail service over this segment, connecting Southeastern Indiana businesses to the nationwide supply chain transporters to ship and receive critical goods throughout North America.

I have been informed that the railroad infrastructure in this location is at the end of its life, requiring both Madison Railroad and other operators to restrict current rail service operations in the region. This impacts their ability to properly service customers and capture future economic growth opportunities. This project includes infrastructure improvements to upgrade railroad tracks and signals to a state of good repair over a large portion of the corridor to improve safety and freight connectivity. Measurable benefits include removing multiple operational restrictions, improving system reliability, increasing train speeds, and reducing rail transit times. This project will also provide the railroad and surrounding communities with the additional capacity required to handle the recent and expected traffic growth happening in Southeast Indiana.

Combined with Port Authority match funding, the CRISI federal grant funds will enable these necessary infrastructure improvements to be completed during this critical period of traffic growth and supply chain constraints we are facing in our region. We believe this project is of vital importance to the continued economic success, health, and safety of Southeastern Indiana.

I would respectfully ask that the Federal Railroad Administration provide full and fair consideration of Madison Railroad's application, as is permissible within all applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Erin Houchin
Member of Congress