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November 28, 2022

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

Dear Administrator Bose:

I represent Dead River Company, located in Bangor, Maine. We are primarily engaged in the wholesale and retail of heating products throughout New England. Currently, we employ over 1,200 people.

On behalf of our company, I would like to express our strong support for the Vermont Agency Of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant application, "Tri-State Regional Rail Upgrade Project."

The St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad (SLR) is partnering with the states of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine on this grant project. The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTRANS) is the lead applicant for the application. Matching funds are being provided by the states of ME and NH, as well as the SLR to make the project a true public-private partnership. This is the final work needed to complete the three-state modern heavy haul rail freight corridor and provide 286,000 lb. railcar weight capacity.

The SLR mainline will receive new welded rail, ties, and grade crossing repairs. 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, which will support the current and future growth needs of our business.

Dead River Company depends on SLR to provide reliable and safe shipping service to meet our freight transportation and supply chain needs.

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

Sincerely,

Levi M. Ross