



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 7, 2019

Mr. Ronald Batory, Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: McKean County, Pennsylvania FY19 FRA CRISI Grant Application

Dear Mr. Batory:

I am writing to give my full support for McKean County's application for the FY19 Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program. McKean, Venango, and Crawford Counties' Freight Rail Capacity and Safety Enhancement Project will enhance the safety and capacity of freight rail service to rural communities within McKean, Venango, and Crawford Counties.

Currently, the railway is not able to safely and reliably transport goods due to infrastructure deficiencies. There are three large thru truss rail bridges that need to be replaced. The bridges will most likely be replaced with new thru plate girders structures which will provide for a wider railway. This project would also replace two concrete abutments that are in disrepair. These improvements to the railway would increase the number of goods transported by rail throughout the area. Access to essential railroad infrastructure will provide local communities with long-term economic opportunities.

This project has positive economic impact for the region. In addition, there are positive impacts on the environment and highways that will be realized. With more goods transported by rail, the use of heavy trucks on the roads decreases. This reduces both the wear on the roads and emissions. McKean, Venango, and Crawford Counties are working together with many community stakeholders for both project development and the funding of this project.

Thank you for your consideration of this important application. I respectfully request that you keep my office informed of the status of this grant application.

Sincerely,

Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

GT/av