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# United States Senate

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ENTREPRENEURSHIP

June 26, 2020

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

**RE: New Orleans & Gulf Coast Railway Company  
CRISI Grant Application (FR-CRS-20-001)**

Dear Mr. Batory,

I am writing to express my support for the New Orleans & Gulf Coast Railway Company (NOGC) Safety and Infrastructure Improvements grant application for the Federal Railroad Administration's Consolidated Infrastructure and Safety Improvements program, opportunity number FR-CRS-20-001.

Succinctly stated, my support for this grant application largely arises from its focus on improving safety while stimulating economic activity and job creation at a very critical time. Additionally, my support for this grant application also strongly exists because it leverages significant private investment.

This project will improve the New Orleans urbanized area rail infrastructure, including the rehabilitation of two lift bridges over navigable waterways, replacement of embedded trackage, creation of double-main trackage from single-main line track, and a tie replacement program. The project will also include first responder hazardous materials training to ensure preparedness in case of rare emergencies. This \$16.5M infrastructure improvement project will increase the NOGC's capacity for new business and job growth, which is vital to local economic recovery, and improve their ability to safely deliver both hazardous and non-hazardous commodities with increased efficiency.

The NOGC is seeking a 50% Federal contribution, with a 50% private sector match. This private capital infusion into the local economy will support job growth at the NOGC and stimulate the local economy that has been heavily impacted by COVID-19.

Because the proposed project (a) improves rail safety, (b) stimulates the economy and creates jobs, and (c) provides a 50% non-federal private capital investment, I support this grant application and encourage you to give it every appropriate consideration.

In closing, I would appreciate you notifying me of the Federal Railroad Administration's award decision on NOGC's application.

Sincerely,



John Kennedy  
United States Senator