



Greg Gianforte
Congress of the United States

Montana

April 6, 2018

Steven M. Fischer
District 13 Bridge Administration Office
US Coast Guard
915 Second Ave
Seattle, WA 98174

Mr. Fischer:

I am writing to encourage the prompt permitting approval for the Sandpoint Junction Connector Project over Lake Pend Oreille. The project would have wide-ranging benefits for the economy, trade, and transportation across Montana and our partners in the Pacific Northwest.

The second line would run parallel to an existing track that crosses Lake Pend Oreille in Northern Idaho. This second track is desperately needed, and I was encouraged to see BNSF take up the investment on its own. Montanans rely on this route for safe, reliable transport of our agricultural goods and natural resource products, yet we have seen delays continually rise. I recognize that this is a significant investment by BNSF that will greatly impact many of my constituents. To further delay this project would be disappointing, considering Idaho's already stringent permitting process and an existing right of way.

Again, I encourage you to recognize the economic benefits that the Sandpoint Junction Connector Project will provide to Montana and the rest of the region. I urge you to approve this project. If you wish to discuss this with me, please, do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Gianforte', written over a horizontal line.

GREG GIANFORTE
Member of Congress