

SDAC

South Dakota Association of Cooperatives

Cooperative Value ~ Unified Voice

116 N Euclid Ave
Pierre SD 57501
Phone: 605.945.2548

Web site: www.sdac.coop

April 20, 2018

Admiral Paul F. Zukunft
Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Coast Guard
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20593-7000

Dear Admiral Zukunft,

The South Dakota Association of Cooperatives is expressing its support for the Sandpoint Junction Connector project proposed by BNSF. Our member cooperatives rely heavily on a safe, efficient freight rail system to transport South Dakota agricultural products. Last year, BNSF shipped over 130,000 carloads of wheat, soybeans, corn, sweet beets, beans, and other agricultural products from South Dakota to both domestic and foreign destinations.

We believe the proposed Sandpoint Junction Connector project will provide BNSF with additional capacity needed to reduce congestion, enhance safety, and improve rail service. BNSF's recent \$2 billion investment in expanding its northern transcontinental route demonstrates its commitment to its customers and the communities it serves.

We ask your timely review and approval of BNSF's application for the Sandpoint Junction Connector project.

Sincerely,



Jared Landmark, President
SD Association of Cooperatives