

JAMES E. RISCH
IDAHO

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 483

(202) 224-2762

FAX (202) 224-2573

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FOREIGN RELATIONS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

April 26, 2018

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

Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite
Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Admiral Zukunft and Lt. Gen Semonite:

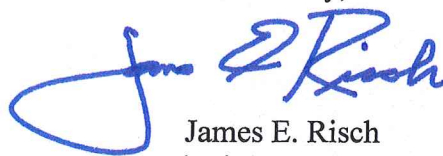
As you may be aware, the Sandpoint Junction Connector Project is part of the BNSF Great Northern Corridor, which is nationally significant and allows the transportation of vital freight and passengers from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Northwest. Many farmers, miners, ranchers, manufacturers, energy producers, lumber businesses, and Amtrak trains rely on the successful operation of this corridor. As such, I believe timely consideration of this project will benefit all communities connected to BNSF rail operations.

In addition to national benefits, the Sandpoint Junction Connector Project will benefit northern Idaho through a reduction in congestion and safer operation of train junctions. When completed, trains will run in both directions across the bridge, reducing the need for trains to stop as they wait for clearance to cross. Because of this, Idaho drivers could see shorter wait times on nearby roads as this expansion will enable a more fluid flow of rail and road traffic.

BNSF has committed to the safety of the Sandpoint region, completing detailed plans on shipping commodities through the environmentally sensitive regions of northern Idaho. Timely approval for this project would benefit northern Idaho and all the businesses and communities who benefit from the BNSF Great Northern Corridor.

It is crucial that freight on the BNSF rail system is able to move efficiently and safely, which is why I urge the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to give the Sandpoint Junction Connector Project timely consideration.

Sincerely,



James E. Risch
United States Senator

Cc: U.S. Coast Guard, District 13 Bridge Administration
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District

SUITE 302
350 NORTH 9TH STREET
BOISE, ID 83702
(208) 342-7985

HARBOR PLAZA
610 HUBBARD, SUITE 213
COEUR D'ALENE, ID 83814
(208) 667-6130

SUITE 106
313 D STREET
LEWISTON, ID 83501
(208) 743-0792

SUITE 290
275 SOUTH 5TH STREET
POCATELLO, ID 83201
(208) 236-6817

SUITE 201
1411 FALLS AVENUE E
TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
(208) 734-6780

SUITE 202A
901 PIER VIEW DRIVE
IDAHO FALLS, ID 83402
(208) 523-5541

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1206

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

J. O. Risch
U.S.S.

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
WASHINGTON DC
PERMIT NO. 301

FCM

USPS FIRST-CLASS MAIL®

UNITED STATES SENATE
1 ST C STREET NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0001

Pkg ID: 00189093

SHIP MR. STEVEN FISCHER, COMMANDER
TO: THIRTEENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT
915 2ND AVE
STE 2664
SEATTLE, WA 98174-1067



FLAT

Office ID: 1206

