



South Dakota Grain & Feed Association

April 23, 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 Mr. Zukunft:

On behalf of the South Dakota Grain & Feed Association (SDGFA), I am writing to express my support for the Sandpoint Junction Connector Project. SDGFA is a statewide, non-profit trade association composed of elevator firms and other agribusinesses involved in the grain, feed and farm supply business.

South Dakota's number one business is agriculture with a \$25.6 billion economic impact each year and generates 20 percent of the state's economic activity. In 2017, BNSF shipped over 130,000 carloads of wheat, soybeans, corn, and other agricultural products from South Dakota and over half of these products traveled the northern transcontinental route.

BNSF have invested nearly \$2 billion to expand capacity on the northern transcontinental route since 2013. The one-lane bridge at Sandpoint remains a critical chokepoint in the network. The proposed Sandpoint Junction projects adds capacity and alleviates that chokepoint to allow enhanced movement of freight, including South Dakota agriculture products.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the support of the South Dakota Grain & Feed Association for this project.

Sincerely,

Kathy Zander
Executive Director

cc: Danny G. McReynolds, U.S. Coast Guard
Todd T. Semonite, U.S. Corps of Engineers
Shane P. Slate, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers