

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
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5730
May 16, 2018

The Honorable James E. Risch
Russel Senate Office Building
Suite 483
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Risch:

This is in response to your letter dated April 26, 2018 regarding the Sandpoint Junction Connector Project, which includes BNSF's proposed construction of a second railroad bridge across Lake Pend Oreille at Sandpoint, Idaho.

Thank you for your interest in this project and raising our awareness of its importance to the State of Idaho and the Pacific Northwest region. We are working closely with BNSF on this project and coordinating our efforts with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has permitting authority for a portion of the project as well. Given the high level of collaboration thus far, we are confident that we can obtain and analyze all relevant information required for the Coast Guard to make a timely permit decision.

Should you or your staff have any further questions, please contact Commander Adam Chamie, Coast Guard Office of Governmental and Public Affairs, at (202) 225-4775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Emerson".

Michael D. Emerson
U.S. Coast Guard
Director, Marine Transportation Systems