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June 22, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

RE: Support for a FY 21 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to share Watco's support of the Ardmore Development Authority's (ADA) FY21 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application, *International Air Cargo Development Project at the Global Transportation and Industrial Park in Ardmore, Oklahoma*, for the development of a global air cargo facility at the Ardmore Municipal Airport, a former military base.

We are working with local partners like the ADA to drive economic development at the Ardmore Airport. This RAISE grant is an important tool to achieving our goal of developing this facility into a competitive global destination for air cargo, in addition to a rail-served multimodal facility centrally located in the US.

Watco is a single-source transportation and supply chain services company with locations throughout North America and Australia. Founded in 1983, we grew from one locomotive into a leading transportation services company. Today, we own and operate a diverse and unmatched network of short line railroads, terminals, ports, and mechanical shops, along with a robust logistics business that helps customers meet their supply chain needs.

The *International Air Cargo Development Project at the Global Transportation and Industrial Park in Ardmore, Oklahoma* has the full support of local stakeholders, including the State of Oklahoma, City of Ardmore, Carter County and others. The RAISE program is designed for these types of projects and, therefore, we ask that you please select this project in the FY21 round of funding.

We appreciate your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Laura McNichol
Senior Vice President, Government & Industry Relations