

John Galusha, Chairman  
Arica Andreatta, Commissioner  
Karl Sporleder, Commissioner



## Board of County Commissioners

Colorado Pacific Rio Grande Railroad  
% William Osborn, Attorney  
601 State Avenue  
Alamosa, CO 81101

May 28, 2024

Re: 2023-2024 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Osborn,

We are writing in full and enthusiastic support of the Colorado Pacific Rio Grande Railroad (CXRG) U.S. D.O.T. Federal Railway (FRA) CRISI grant application. The proposed project scope - upgrading the entire CXRG system from Federal Railway Administration (FRA) Class 1 to FRA Class 2 - along with the resultant rail infrastructure updates such as new ties, ballast, and surfacing will bring numerous benefits to Huerfano County and our region at large. This project would also be timed well with Colorado Governor Jared Polis' proposed Front Range Passenger Rail project; replacing the current 110 pound rail system with modern industry-standard 136 pound rail, which would be a necessary requisite for future passenger rail projects in and through Huerfano County and accelerate a heavy-lift project.

For Huerfano County, the U.S. D.O.T. awarding the CXRG grant application in full would represent investments in public safety as well as environmental and wildlife protection, and position the County well for future rail development in the region. The current 110 pound La Veta Pass and South Middle Creek Valley rail line has been responsible for multiple train derailments. One such derailment occurred as recently as March 28th, 2024. Overall, train derailments through this region have negatively impacted supply chain logistics, citizen safety, and both the environment and local wildlife.

Upon completion, this project would mitigate the risk of additional, future derailments while protecting citizens, the environment, and wildlife. Furthermore, this project is necessary to modernize and accommodate rail development demand. We fully support CXRG's grant application and are willing to collaborate on project completion as necessary.

Sincerely,  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

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John Galusha, Chairman

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Arica Andreatta, Commissioner

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Karl Sporleder, Commissioner

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