



June 8, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Wilmington Business Development (WBD) is the lead economic development organization serving the City of Wilmington, New Hanover County and Pender County. We are a private, member-driven organization seeking to bring sustainable and inclusive economic growth and diversification across our region.

I am writing to offer my support for the Wilmington Rail Realignment Project and the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) funding opportunity.

Greater Wilmington is poised for exciting job and business growth in the wake of new infrastructure, equipment and operating systems in and around the Port of Wilmington. A major component of this transformational opportunity will be relocating the Wilmington beltline rail from its current route through the residential and commercial heart of the city to uninhabited areas on the west side of the Cape Fear River, where the rail would enjoy a more direct connection to the CSX Davis Railyard at the Port. The relocated route will help facilitate development of additional business activity in logistics, distribution and trade-related industries. The Realignment Project, which complements millions of dollars in state upgrades already underway at the Port, will significantly boost Wilmington's status as "North Carolina's Gateway to the Global Economy." As important, the project will provide safer and more convenient surface transportation in our fast-growing region and open up opportunities to re-purpose the existing right-of-way in a manner that enhances our community and its quality of life.

WBD strongly supports the City of Wilmington's important efforts to secure funding for the PE/NEPA track of the CRISI grant opportunity in order to move this transformative project forward.

Yours sincerely,



R. Scott Satterfield
CEO