

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

August 23, 2018

The Honorable Ronald Batory  
Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Snohomish County's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (FR-CRS-18-004)  
application for the Meadowdale Beach Park and Estuary Restoration Project

Dear Administrator Batory,

I am pleased to write in support of Snohomish County's application to the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program. The Meadowdale Beach Park and Estuary Restoration Project seeks to improve a segment of rail line to resolve public safety hazards.

Meadowdale Beach Park is located in Snohomish County along the Puget Sound shoreline. Visited by approximately 65,000 people annually, the park offers recreational and environmental education programs for children of all ages.

The beach at Meadowdale Beach Park is separated from the rest of the park by a railroad embankment causing serious safety hazards to visitors trying to access the beach. Currently, one non-ADA compliant undersized culvert provides both the passage way for the ESA listed juvenile Chinook salmon, and the only access point for pedestrians to the beach despite it often being partially filled with water. As a result of the barriers to the beach, many visitors choose to trespass over the railway tracks, putting themselves at great danger of being hit by one of the 61 trains that passes through each day. To resolve these concerns and aide in restoring critical habitat, Snohomish County plans to replace the six foot wide culvert and 128 linear feet of rock armored railroad embankment with a five-span railroad bridge, ADA-compliant saltwater beach access, and fish passage.

The Meadowdale Beach Park and Estuary Restoration Project has the opportunity to ensure reliable rail transportation for passengers and freight, improve public beach access and safety, and restore critical Chinook salmon habitat. I support Snohomish County's proposal and thank you for your full and fair consideration of their request.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

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