

DEREK KILMER  
6TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4706

February 16, 2016

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Secretary Penny S. Pritzker  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

RE: City of Tacoma's Minority Business Development Agency Business Center Program Grant – FY16

Dear Secretary Pritzker,

I am pleased to write in support of the City of Tacoma's application for Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) grant funding to expand technical assistance and business development services to the minority business enterprise (MBE) community of greater Tacoma, Washington.

The City of Tacoma is dedicated to revitalization and economic improvement, and the Program Grant will provide an opportunity to encourage new business growth through strong partnerships and innovation. With its partners – the Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority, Bates Technical College, and the World Trade Center Tacoma – the City plans to facilitate growth in the MBE community by connecting businesses and entrepreneurs to resources that promote collaboration, sound business practices, and smart growth.

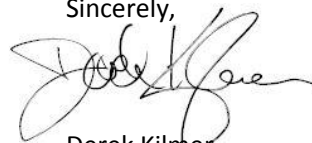
By dedicating space within City Hall and allocating funds for full-time staff, funding for this proposal will allow the City and its partners to provide MBDA businesses with:

- 1) The City of Tacoma's Community and Economic Development Department's strategic partnerships – including local agencies that offer financial assistance, advice, training, research, mentoring, and counseling services geared towards creating and expanding small businesses.
- 2) Access to local business mentoring organizations, such as the Procurement Technical Assistance Center, Small Business Development Center, and the South Sound/Tacoma SCORE Chapter.
- 3) Opportunities for MBE firms to access global markets through interaction with international trade experts and market research tools.

This partnership reflects Tacoma's recent strategic goals for economic development. The City has committed to supporting entrepreneurship and small businesses; partnering with higher learning institutions to provide technical training for start-ups; focusing on attracting, retaining, and expanding industries that offer living wage jobs in the community.

I strongly support the City of Tacoma's efforts to establish an MBDA Business Center and urge your fair and full consideration of the City of Tacoma's MBDA Grant Application. Should you have any questions, please contact Nicholas Carr in my Tacoma office at (253) 272-3515 or at [Nicholas.Carr@mail.house.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Carr@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress, WA-06