

DEREK KILMER

6TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

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

April 26, 2016

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Brooke Chapman
Associate Director, SCASDP
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Chapman:

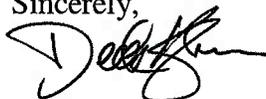
I write today in support of the application from the Port of Port Angeles for Small Community Air Service Grant Program funding and the Port's efforts to re-establish air service to the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. I urge your full and fair consideration of this application that could have a tremendous positive impact in the District that I represent.

Port Angeles, WA and the surrounding communities are served by William R. Fairchild International Airport, which is owned by the Port of Port Angeles. This region has felt the economic impact of a lack of commercial air service in the area since the departure of Kenmore Air in November 2014. This has included the loss of businesses and local residents who rely on air service for their livelihoods. Currently, the closest viable option for travelers is in Seattle, WA and requires hours of driving and often times ferry service across Puget Sound. The Port of Port Angeles and local stakeholders have been working hard since 2014 to attract new carriers and other opportunities to regain this critical link for business growth and local travelers.

The Olympic Peninsula is a collection of rural communities in which travel options can be limited by geography and the presence of Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest. The existence of reliable and cost-effective air service from our small airports is critical to existing residents, local businesses, and those visiting our great state. I understand the Port plans to use this grant, if awarded, to supplement local community matches to recruit an air carrier to provide consistent and affordable service for William R. Fairchild International Airport. This is especially important to the communities of the North Olympic Peninsula and is consistent with growing concerns about decreases in regional air service to rural areas and small communities across the country.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact Judith Morris in my Port Angeles, WA Office at Judith.Morris@mail.house.gov or (360) 797-3623.

Sincerely,



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress