

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 15, 2020

Dana Gartzke
Performing the Delegated Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce
for Economic Development
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Suite 71014
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Gartzke:

We are writing in support of the Port of Port Angeles' application for FY 2019 Disaster Supplemental funding through the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for its Marine Trades Industrial Park project. The Port is seeking \$14,800,000 to invest in resilient infrastructure to support the maritime industry to expand and diversify the region's economic base and serve as a catalyst for private investment.

Expanding maritime commerce through the development of the Marine Trades Industrial Park is the Port's highest priority project in its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and is the top initiative in the Port's Strategic Plan. The project site is a former brownfield located within an Opportunity Zone and SBA Hub Zone. The Port has invested \$14,235,000 in this project to date, including development of a sitewide master plan, design and engineering, geotechnical site investigation, demolition of a former plywood mill and clean-up of the property, as well as construction of a boat wash facility.

The Port will use the requested funding to install the needed utilities, site grading and preparation, paving, and construction of a building that can be utilized for vessel rehab. The Port has worked to incorporate resiliency into this project. For instance, the power and water utilities will create a "looped" system to the Port's Marine Terminal complex, which will provide more resilient service to both the Marine Trades Industrial Park and the Port's two marine terminals. Furthermore, electrical service will be installed underground to avoid outages from future wind storms similar to the December 2018 storm that caused long term power outages throughout Clallam County. New stormwater infrastructure will be installed to prevent future flooding and ensure stormwater runoff discharged from the site will meet water quality benchmarks.

The project is ideally located to serve recreational, commercial and military vessels that transit the Straits of Juan De Fuca. Today, there are very few options for haul out and repair vessels along this busy corridor. Expansion of the marine trades industry sector in Port Angeles will serve a vital need in the region and capitalize on its location. It will also serve as a hedge against the uncertainty that is inherent in the other industries that drive the regional economy. For instance, the Olympic Peninsula, where the Port is located, is heavily dependent on timber

extraction and processing, but market fluctuations can have serious immediate impacts to the local economy. Tourism is strong in the summertime, but wanes in the winter months. Marine Trades jobs, on the other hand, provide full time, year-round living wages for workers.

The Port projects the project will support 250 direct jobs with an average wage of \$49,000 per year and an additional 200 indirect jobs as local companies respond to an increased demand for their products and services. Altogether, the project will result in an additional \$11.5 million in annual wages and generate \$1.3 million in state and local taxes every year.

For these reasons, we urge you to give full and fair consideration to the Port of Port Angeles's application for FY 2019 Disaster Supplemental funding for its Marine Trades Industrial Park project.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress