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October 2nd, 2023

Alejandra Y. Castillo
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development
Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Castillo,

I am writing today to request fair and full consideration for Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties' application for funding through Phase 1 of the U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program for their proposal, the *Washington State Coastal Counties Initiative*.

This initiative aims to propel the advancement of Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties through the application for a Strategy Development Grant and Recompete Plan under the EDA Recompete Pilot Program. This funding, if awarded, would be pivotal in Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties' efforts to tackle the economic hurdles within the community, particularly in closing the prime age employment gap. The counties are focused on ensuring a team approach is based on an equitable, bottom-up strategy that removes barriers, creates jobs, and ensures historically marginalized populations throughout the region benefit from this innovative initiative.

I urge your fair and full consideration of Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties' application for funding through Phase 1 of the EDA's Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program. Should you have any questions, please contact Emma Abraham in my Tacoma district office at Emma.Abraham@mail.house.gov or 253-272-3515.

Sincerely,

Derek Kilmer



Member of Congress