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RICK LARSEN
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Congress of the United States
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RANKING MEMBER
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TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

March 18, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I request your full and fair consideration of the City of Lynden's application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Rural Planning Grant Program for its Pepin Flood, Agriculture, Safety, Salmon, and Transportation (FASST) Project.

Pepin Creek runs through Lynden via deep roadside ditches, with 80 percent of the Pepin watershed located in Canada. The ditches overflow during winter storms when large amounts of water flow across the U.S.-Canada border, causing unsafe transportation conditions, road closures and property damage in the surrounding area. The creek is also important habitat for local salmon and other endangered fish populations that are exposed to vehicular pollutants and culvert barriers.

The FASST project will reroute Pepin Creek to a new natural stream corridor with sufficient capacity to safely convey higher flood flows through Lynden, while also constructing wider, multimodal roadways previously restricted by ditches. The project will also replace 21 deficient fish barrier culverts with fish-passable bridges. In doing so, the project will address flooding and pollution while improving road safety, enhancing freight access for the local agricultural community, and protecting salmon and other endangered fish. Lynden would use funds from this grant to develop a 30 percent design master plan for the FASST project, in addition to refining the project's implementation and expanding community engagement.

For these reasons, I request your full and fair consideration of Lynden's RAISE grant application. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen
U.S. Representative
Washington State, Second District