

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 22, 2026

The Honorable Edward Forst
Administrator of General Services
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Administrator Forst:

It has come to our attention that Washington state's Kenneth G. Ward and Sumas Land Ports of Entry (LPOE) projects are temporarily prevented from moving forward with their Design Build Solicitation. We write to express our concern regarding this decision by General Services Administration (GSA). These projects are two of 26 LPOE modernization projects for which Congress provided \$3.4 billion dollars almost five years ago. We understand that all of these projects are subject to skyrocketing construction costs, and that as a result the real cost of completion exceeds the original estimates for all 26 projects.

However, we ask that the Kenneth G. Ward and Sumas LPOE projects continue to move forward in a timely manner. Both LPOEs are vital border crossings for Washington state and Canada and play a significant role in trade and economic development that is relevant to the economic vitality of the United States. Delaying these projects will have consequential impacts on the nation's supply chain, labor market, and national security. These projects are also key to local development plans in the cities of Sumas and Lynden, where the LPOEs are located. LPOE modernization will impact several existing buildings in Sumas's downtown core, and Lynden is preparing to take on additional commercial traffic. Prolonged uncertainty on project timelines will only lead to more disruption and delays in economic development of these cities.

It is our understanding that in the next couple of months, GSA and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will reassess the prioritization of the remaining nine LPOEs which have not received procurement awards or construction awards, including Kenneth G. Ward and Sumas. We ask that you prioritize the Kenneth G. Ward and Sumas Land Port of Entry projects for completion within the appropriated amounts provided by Congress. Please keep us up to date with the decisions associated with both projects.

We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee



Representative Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure

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