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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4702

August 5, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I ask for your careful consideration of the Port of Everett's application for \$15.5 million in funding through the 2019 Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant program. The funds would be used to support the Port's acquisition of the 58-acre Kimberly-Clark property on the Everett waterfront to redevelop it as a hub for maritime activity.

The city of Everett is in Snohomish County, the fastest growing county in Washington state, where an estimated 60 percent of jobs are tied to trade. The Port of Everett plans to support these jobs by redeveloping a significant tract of waterfront land that includes deep-water access. The acquisition would restore the property back to productive maritime freight uses (including short sea shipping), enhance maritime commerce on the National Freight Network and meet the upland space requirement to be designated a Strategic Seaport by the Department of Defense. Additionally, this purchase and redevelopment would ensure compatible land use and prevent encroachment on the adjacent Naval Station Everett and Port of Everett facilities.

Everett's neighboring cities, Arlington and Marysville, created the Cascadia Manufacturing and Industrial Center on more than 4,000 acres of industrial land to support family wage jobs in the region. This industrial hub, along with the one created directly by redevelopment of the Kimberly-Clark property, would benefit from increased shipping and maritime infrastructure on the Everett waterfront.

For these reasons, I ask that you give full and fair consideration to the Port of Everett's application for the 2019 BUILD grant program. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress  
Washington State, 2<sup>nd</sup> District