

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

May 13, 2009

Mr. David Porter, Economic Development Representative
U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
One World Trade Center, Suite 244
121 S.W. Salmon Street
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mr. Porter:

I am writing to strongly support Walla Walla Community College's application for capital funds to expand the William A. Grant Water and Environmental Center. I personally had the opportunity to visit the existing facility this year and know the EDA funds to grow the Center would be dollars well invested.

Walla Walla Community College, working closely with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, will be able to provide needed lab space, state-of-the-art equipment, and hands-on training opportunities with the expansion. The new facility will address the critical need for new green jobs, and enhanced skills for those working to restore and protect our environment now and in the future. Importantly, the addition of a Watershed Ecology degree program will greatly benefit the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation as well as a multitude of federal, state and local organizations.

It is clear to me there is a wide breadth of support for this project with the investments of private, local and state funds. The expanded William A. Grant Water and Environmental Center will ensure that communities across the region will have watershed models of best practice. I am confident that many successful economic and environmental outcomes for the region will come to fruition if this project is funded.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

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