

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

April 8, 2016

Leonard Smith, Seattle Regional Director  
Economic Development Administration  
Jackson Federal Building, Room 1890  
915 Second Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98174-1001

Dear Director Smith:

I write in strong support of the application submitted to the Economic Development Administration Public Works Grant Program by the City of Oroville, Washington. Downtown Oroville serves as the economic and social activity center of the Upper Okanogan Valley and federal funding is needed to promote job retention and increase competitiveness of its local manufacturing industry.

Located four miles from the Canadian Border, Oroville serves as a main hub for regional trade, exporting value added timber products to domestic and international markets via the Cascade and Columbia Rail Line. The railroad maintains their northernmost transload facility at Oroville, a significant asset to the manufacturing warehouses and lumber producers adjacent to the line. In order to maximize economic development in this area, the City has prioritized a project to relocate portions of Bob Neil and Jennings Loop Roads to enable the growth of one of its major employers – Oroville Reman and Reload.

Road realignment supports the expansion of the Oroville Reman and Reload facility, a manufacturer of wood products that ships over 48,000 board feet of lumber a year. The facility's parent company has purchased 11 additional acres of land in the last two years to support business expansion and has completed a \$10 million upgrade to the site, installing state of the art manufacturing technology that makes the facility a showcase site in North America.

Oroville Reman and Reload is a steward of the community and the environment, having recently installed dry kilns and a bio-energy steam plant. Road realignment is expected to support the creation of 30 new positions and retain 105 jobs at the Oroville Reman and Reload Facility, and retain another 26 jobs at the neighboring Zosel's Lumber Company.

The City of Oroville maintains a successful history of administering federal funds to meet community needs and I am encouraged by their proposal's ability to advance economic prosperity and expand family wage employment opportunities in this rural region of Washington state. I ask for your full and fair consideration of the City of Oroville's application to the Economic Development Administration Public Works Grant Program.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

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