

MARIA CANTWELL
WASHINGTON



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

February 27, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of an application submitted by the Port of Bremerton to the FY2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. The Port of Bremerton is requesting \$9.4 million in RAISE funding to complete the Port Orchard Marina Breakwater project.

The Port Orchard Marina Breakwater was built in 1974 and is now more than 20 years past its designed lifespan. The impacts of climate change and wave attenuation from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Washington State Ferry vessel traffic have put the breakwater at risk of failure. Unfortunately, damage from a storm in the fall of 2022 has forced the Port of Bremerton to close the marina to the general public, and while repairs have kept it functional, they are not a sustainable long-term solution.

The Marina serves as the economic driver for the City of Port Orchard, contributing \$10 million to the local economy each year. The breakwater protects the only saltwater fueling station within 16 nautical miles, serving marine vessels in the movement of goods and people. The breakwater provides mooring for numerous public uses such as essential government emergency response services, non-tribal commercial fishing, the Kitsap Transit foot ferry fleet, general moorage and recreational slips, and commercial fishing vessel moorage and cargo unloading docks reserved exclusively for the Suquamish Tribe.

A replaced breakwater will also include the electrification components necessary to charge Kitsap Transit's growing electric fleet. In February of 2022, Kitsap Transit was awarded \$7.7 million to add a new zero-emission vessel to their fleet, and the new breakwater would serve as a charging location.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the Port of Bremerton's request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maria Cantwell".

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator