

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

October 3, 2018

A. Leonard Smith
Regional Director
Economic Development Administration
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, WA 98174

Re: Town of Darrington's application to the FY18 Economic Development Assistance Programs

Dear Director Smith,

I write in support of the application submitted by the Town of Darrington to the Economic Development Assistance Program in fiscal year 2018. Darrington's proposal to create a Wood Innovation Center supports wood product companies and the growing mass timber industry – including a mass timber plant in the town of Darrington. Mass timber has a promising future in the state of Washington because of its benefit to both urban and rural populations.

The Wood Innovation Center will supply mass timber construction products for large-scale urban projects in the western region. Such mass timber construction projects include workforce and residential housing developments that are affordable and sustainable. These projects will also improve the health of public forests through responsible sourcing. In addition, the Wood Innovation Center would create approximately 50 direct jobs and 100 indirect jobs to stimulate the economies of Darrington and the surrounding rural towns of Oso and Arlington.

In addition to its rural and urban community benefits, the Wood Innovation Center's impact would reach a global scale. The Wood Innovation Center would be the first of its kind in the U.S. by producing mass timber to European standards, thereby enabling Washington state to compete with other international mass timber companies.

In turn, the Wood Innovation Center will provide high quality, affordable construction materials for urban projects and mitigate economic distress in rural communities through job creation. The Wood Innovation Center will enable U.S. mass timber companies to compete on a global scale while attracting foreign direct investment. For these reasons, I support Darrington's application and thank you for offering their proposal your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

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