

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

May 29, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing in support of Mason PUD 3's ReConnect grant application. With this grant funding, Mason PUD 3 will extend gigabit broadband service to the unserved "Three Fingers" area in rural Grapeview, Washington. This project will provide a tremendous benefit to a community without broadband service and once completed, will retain existing jobs and facilitate the growth of new jobs in Mason County.

The Three Fingers Broadband project will extend service to approximately 250 households and businesses. PUD 3 will provide middle-mile and last-mile fiber-optic service to each premise located within the community. Installation of nearly 18 miles of underground facilities is needed to serve the area. Of the estimated \$3.3 million total project, approximately \$833,000 will be matched by PUD 3.

Access to broadband infrastructure and services to rural communities for economic development in Washington State and across the nation is a high priority. Having access to reliable high-speed internet connectivity will enhance public safety, education and distance learning, access to health services, economic development, and community services. High speed internet and broadband services are integral to continued economic growth in Mason County.

I fully support this project and thank you for your full and fair consideration of Mason PUD 3's grant application

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell

United States Senator

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