

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

December 6, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am pleased to join more than 50 central Washington state businesses and organizations in supporting the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) application submitted by Pangborn Memorial Airport in Wenatchee. This community has rallied to show tremendous support for expanded air service to this growing area of our state. Local businesses have pledged more than \$400,000 to match the Airport's grant request, which is one of the largest such matches in the history of the SCASD Program.

Wenatchee and the surrounding cities and towns are extremely isolated. The community has no true alternate airport, and no interstate highway access. The Wenatchee Valley is located along the easterly slope of the Cascade Mountain Range. To access an alternate airport, passengers must cross two mountain passes, which can be especially difficult in winter.

The community further isolated by limited air service. While Alaska Airlines provides critical service to Seattle/Tacoma, it operates just three flights per day. Furthermore, Wenatchee's fares are among the highest in the Pacific Northwest, putting travel out of reach for many in the region.

The Airport's grant application would support a new route to the San Francisco Bay Area. With a growing cluster of technology companies in the region, this route would provide an important link that would allow for continued growth. Grant funding will reduce airline risk and provide Wenatchee with much-needed access to markets across the country.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

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