

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
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VETERANS' AFFAIRS

April 11, 2014

Mr. Matt Erskine
Acting Assistant Secretary for Economic Development
US Economic Development Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Erskine,

I am writing in support of the Puget Sound Regional Council's application to designate the Washington Aerospace Manufacturing Community as a Manufacturing Community through the Federal Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership initiative.

With over 132,000 workers and 1,350 aerospace-related companies, the Washington Aerospace Manufacturing Community is the largest and most robust aerospace cluster in the world. It includes Washington state's two key aerospace manufacturing corridors – the Puget Sound Aerospace Corridor (King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish and Clallam counties) and the I-90 Aerospace Corridor (Grant county and the Spokane Metropolitan Statistical Area (Spokane, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties).

Washington state's aerospace cluster has a rich, diversified and integrated supply chain, a world-class engineering and machining workforce, and a history of strong support from and close cooperation among industry, labor, government, education and community leaders. Working together through the Washington Aerospace Partnership and other key groups, our state:

- Created the highly productive Center of Excellence of Aerospace and Advanced Materials Manufacturing, which works closely with the aerospace industry, labor, community and technical colleges and apprenticeship programs statewide to develop the training and education programs to equip workers with the skills they need to fill key aerospace jobs.
- Formed the Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation (JCATI) as a partnership between the top universities in our state to facilitate and leverage funds for development of new aerospace technologies.
- Won a \$20 million Department of Labor grant that is training workers at community and technical colleges statewide in advanced manufacturing/composites, electronics/avionics, aircraft assembly, and aircraft maintenance, fueling our state's top-tier aerospace workforce.

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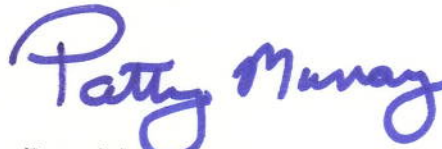
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- Formed the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC), which creates aerospace training opportunities in order to maintain a diverse talent pool capable of fueling the region's thriving aerospace cluster.
- Has the largest Boeing facility in the country, which is the nation's largest exporter.
- Worked together with local and regional governments to prioritize growth areas, regional manufacturing industrial centers and other key industrial areas in order to coordinate and leverage infrastructure, transit and transportation resources.
- Developed the Washington Aerospace Partnership, which brings together leaders statewide to develop and implement the Washington Aerospace Industry Strategy. This includes plans to attract and retain key industry, fund infrastructure and education, and support emergent industry subsectors such as composites, aviation biofuels, unmanned aerial systems/vehicles and commercial space exploration. The group has helped win the 777X and 737 MAX programs.

Designation as a Manufacturing Community would mean that the Washington Aerospace Manufacturing Community would be able to leverage public and private investments to ensure this industry is ready to meet future challenges on a global scale.

Thank you for your positive consideration of the Washington Aerospace Manufacturing Community for this important designation. Please contact Richard Lazaro in my Seattle office at (206) 724-6667 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator

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