

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

January 12, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of an application submitted by Pangborn Memorial Airport for the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP)* to establish non-stop service to and from the San Francisco Bay area.

Pangborn Memorial Airport in Wenatchee, Washington is seeking a SCASDP grant to expand their service and launch a new, non-stop route to a San Francisco Bay area airport. Currently, Pangborn Memorial Airport provides service to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and offers three flights per day on peak days. The greater Wenatchee region has grown significantly in recent years, and Pangborn Memorial Airport has experienced a 30 percent increase in passengers since 2011.

Since 2013, there has also been a 30 percent increase in the number of passengers traveling to and from the San Francisco Bay area through Pangborn Memorial Airport. This growth was in part the result of a successful marketing campaign directed at San Francisco Bay area travelers and made possible by a 2013 SCASDP grant. This marketing campaign focused on tourism and highlighted the wine, agriculture, and outdoor recreation in the Wenatchee region. Today, Wenatchee is also home to numerous high-tech companies that have operations adjacent to Wenatchee and the San Francisco Bay area airports.

Establishing non-stop service to and from the San Francisco Bay area would better support business and leisure travel, and would eliminate the need for connections through Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Pangborn Memorial Airport has identified an airline interested in partnering with the airport on this non-stop service. The strong local support for this route is underscored by the more than \$400,000 in funding committed by local governments, large and small businesses, and other community partners. A direct connection between Pangborn Memorial Airport and a San Francisco Bay area airport is a critical component of future economic growth in the Wenatchee region.

Thank you for your consideration of Pangborn Memorial Airport's application. Please contact Samara Ressler in my Washington, D.C. office at 202-224-2621 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patty Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Patty Murray  
United States Senator