

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

July 30, 2019

Christopher Logan  
Acting Assistant Administrator  
Grant Programs Directorate  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
800 K Street NW  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor North Tower  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Assistant Administrator Logan,

I write in support of Snohomish County's application on behalf of the Puget Sound Region for the fiscal year 2019 Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant (RCPG) program. I firmly believe that the Region's proposal—"Sustaining Survivors after a Catastrophic Incident: Using Geospatial Analysis and Alternative Modes of Delivery to Achieve 'Final Mile' Distribution of Life-Sustaining Commodities"—would be of tremendous value to the Greater Pacific Northwest and the nation as a whole, and is consistent with the goals and objectives of the RCPG program.

The Puget Sound Region is home to over 5 million residents and is projected to grow by 55,000 new residents a year, every year, through 2050. The Region is also situated on or near a number of active faults, including the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) fault capable of generating magnitude 9.0 earthquakes. A 2014 Homeland Infrastructure Threat and Risk Analysis Center study found that a magnitude 9.0 CSZ event would leave over 800,000 individuals in need of shelter and 2.5 million individuals in need of food, water, and other basic life-sustaining commodities. A 2018 Seattle Metro Urban Area Security Initiative review found that the Region may need to maintain food and water distribution systems for at least a year after such an event; subsequent evaluations found that the Region is currently prepared to meet eight percent of this need. The proposal submitted by the Region presents a compelling framework to assess and overcome this significant gap in capability as well as a model for long-term sustainment of high-population areas recovering from a major catastrophe.

Furthermore, the Puget Sound Region is uniquely equipped to successfully develop and implement the proposal outlined in its application. The Region has received RCPG awards in each of the years they have been made available and has continued to support many of the plans and relationships supported by this earlier grant funding. The close collaboration and coordination fostered by these previous awards were best displayed in the regional responses to the 2014 Oso Slide along State Route 530 in Snohomish County, the 2017 Amtrak Derailment in Pierce County, and the three other Major Disaster Declarations that have been issued for the region since 2015. The Region's participation in the 2016 "Cascadia Rising" exercise and its commitment to a similar 2022 exercise is demonstrative of its familiarity and adeptness with planning for complex, sudden, and large-scale disasters.

Taken together, the Puget Sound Region makes a compelling case as to why it deserves serious consideration for such an award: not only would RCPG funding enhance the Region's—and my constituents'—life and safety, an award would produce a vital and relevant long-term catastrophic planning and recovery product for use across the country. Should you have any questions about my support for this application, please reach out to Ben Merkel, a member of my staff, at (202) 224-2621.

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