

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

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

August 21, 2023

Dr. Morteza Farajihan
Executive Director
Build America Bureau
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Executive Director Farajihan:

I write in support of an application submitted by the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Foundation for the Department of Transportation's *Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Demonstration Program* for the Pacific Northwest Economic Region Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Program (PNWER RIA)

The PNWER Foundation is seeking funding to expand technical assistance to projects across the region. PNWER strives to be a Pacific Northwest center of excellence, connecting communities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska to federal grant and loan programs. Through cooperation with local partners, the organization assists communities with infrastructure projects requiring innovative financing strategies, including public-private partnerships.

If funded, the program would be able to continue to build on existing work by expanding to provide aid to infrastructure projects in small, rural, and tribal communities. PNWER will focus primarily on projects seeking to blend public and private funding to strategically maximize federal funding. RIA funding would support a wide variety of projects from zero-emission refueling infrastructure projects, rail system improvement projects, to projects connecting communities through bridges, airports, and ferry systems.

Thank you for your consideration of the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region Foundation's application. Please contact Bree Rabourn in my Seattle office at 206-553-0724 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator