



Blue Bird, Inc.
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February 27, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express the support of Blue Bird, Inc. for the City of Wenatchee's Apple Capital Loop INFRA grant application. Blue Bird, Inc. is one of Washington State's grower owned tree fruit cooperatives, celebrating our 107th year of doing business while representing the best interests of over 200 apple, pear, cherry and apricot member growers.

The tree fruit warehouses of the Wenatchee Valley rely on fluid, efficient transportation to move our grower's fruits from field to warehouse and from warehouse to customer. The City of Wenatchee serves as a key transportation hub, home to the regional commercial airport and is a major crew change and switching station for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe mainline, connecting Chicago to the Northwest Ports.

The five project segments will improve freight mobility and congestion relief, system reliability, and safety and mobility for the citizens and businesses of Central Washington. As one of the businesses destroyed by the Sleepy Hollow wildfire in 2015, Blue Bird Inc is devastatingly aware of the limitations of the city's current north end transportation infrastructure. The Confluence Parkway Project, one of the five specific projects within the Apple Capital Loop INFRA application, would significantly contribute to help relieve the current freight mobility congestion while at the same time addressing transportation safety concerns by providing an additional bridge over the Wenatchee River.

Blue Bird believes that the Apple Capital Loop INFRA will significantly advance the health, safety and economic welfare of this community for decades.

Thank you for considering Blue Bird, Inc.'s support of the City of Wenatchee's Apple Capital Loop INFRA grant application.

Sincerely,

Ron Gonsalves
President, Blue Bird, Inc.