

# Central Washington Innovation Partnership Zone

## Wenatchee Valley Area

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March 1, 2019

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

RE: Support for the Apple Capital Loop INFRA grant

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Central Washington Innovation Partnership Zone (IPZ), I write to add our support of the City of Wenatchee's Apple Capital Loop INFRA grant application as it will significantly advance our regional economic opportunities for decades to come.

The mission of the Central Washington Innovation Partnership Zone is to create new opportunities for innovation and partnership by building relationships between public and private entities in agriculture, energy and technology that will result in new research, new economic partnerships, new business ideas and opportunities and new products to be marketed globally, growing the local gross domestic product.

In order to fully realize the build out of our designated IPZ, we need to have the transportation system to support it. Our zone is comprised of interconnected facilities dependent on access locally and to world markets. The Apple Capital Loop also provides the opportunity to realize transportation innovations which can be supported by the IPZ.

The Apple Capital Loop project will create significant new opportunities for continued economic growth by opening access to develop properties and potentially bring investments of over \$500 million to our region. We may be rural in location, but our industries, innovations and products touch the nation and world.

This INFRA grant will be combined with more than \$100 million of other local public and private funding to complete the Apple Capital Loop. It will leverage more than \$200 million of investments by our agricultural sector in production, storage and transportation. The project will create new investment opportunities for business and housing by accessing vacant lands.

For these reasons along with many others such as the long term, positive impacts on the health, safety and economic welfare of this community, the Central Washington IPZ fully supports the Apple Capital Loop INFRA project.

Thank you for your consideration of this important application.

Sincerely,



Lisa Romine  
Managing Director, NC Workforce Development Council  
Central WA IPZ Administrator