

Housing Authority of Chelan County  
& the City of Wenatchee



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February 25, 2019

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

Re: Support for the Apple Capital Loop INFRA Grant

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Housing Authority, we urge support for the City of Wenatchee's application for the Apple Capital Loop INFRA grant. We are a Public Housing Authority, providing housing to low-income families including hundreds of agricultural workers who reside year-round or visit the Wenatchee valley to work in the fruit, from farm to warehouse. We believe this grant, if provided, will significantly advance our regional economic opportunities for decades to come.

The Wenatchee Valley is located in North Central Washington State, a rural area comprised of about 87% government owned land. Located 150 miles east of Seattle in Central Washington, it is at the crossroads of highways going east to Spokane, west to Seattle, north to British Columbia, and south to Yakima and the Tri-Cities. The City of Wenatchee serves as a key transportation hub even though it is 40 miles from the nearest interstate. Wenatchee Valley is home to the regional commercial airport, Pangborn Memorial Airport, and is a major crew change and switching station for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe mainline that connects Chicago with the Northwest Ports.

The Apple Capital Loop project is the result of years of planning by regional jurisdictions and broad community engagement in the Wenatchee Valley. One key challenge is limited property for economic development. The five project segments will improve safety, mobility, system reliability, freight mobility and congestion relief for the citizens and businesses of Central Washington. At completion, it also will allow much needed investments in housing, retail, and industrial development by bringing infrastructure to vacant and fire damaged lands throughout our community.

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. Our project managers will be using innovative methods for project delivery and streamlined permitting.

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.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alicia McRae".

Alicia McRae  
Executive Director