

March 27, 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:

I am P'Squosa/Wenatchi/Methow and a native speaker Colville Tribal member who also is descended from Sam Miller of Miller's Trading Post, the first viable business in Wenatchee, Washington.

This past year I have returned to my homeland, Wenatchee, with a mission to engage the community in projects that enhance awareness of the rich heritage of Native Americans of our valley. I am particularly interested in sharing stories that center around confluence of the Wenatchee and Columbia rivers. Much of what I know of my culture stems from oral tradition. Those stories which has a lot to say about the importance of the confluence. It was once an important village site and council ground and now is home to the Confluence State Park and the Horan Natural Area.

I presently consult with the Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center. One my efforts concerns the Apple Capital Loop project and associated efforts to further the Confluence Gateway project, which aims to relieve traffic congestion and provide safer and easier access to Chelan, Entiat and the upper valley. This project also has enormous potential to restore the Horan Natural area to its full potential, an effort that the local Audubon has been working on in the last year. In addition, I am involved in creating a vision in the Horan area for a commemorative monument that serves to educate the public about the Wenatchi/P'Squosa people and to create a welcoming place where Native People can gather to host salmon feeds and other events.

I hope that the Apple Capital Loop project receives the attention and support it needs because it is clear how much both the community and its people would benefit.

Sincerely,

Randy Lewis  
Wenatchi/P'squosa/Methow