



June 15, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590-7202

Subject: Support for the I-5/Port of Tacoma Road Interchange Improvement Project

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the Association of Washington Business (AWB), I am writing to express my support for the applications submitted *to the* 2020 Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant application for Phase II of the I-5/Port of Tacoma Road Interchange Improvement Project.

AWB is Washington's oldest and largest statewide business association, with nearly 7,000 member companies. AWB serves as both the state's chamber of commerce and the manufacturing and technology association.

The I-5/Port of Tacoma Road Interchange Improvement Project includes road, intersection, and intersection improvements at the I-5/Port of Tacoma Road interchange that will greatly enhance a critical connection to the Port of Tacoma, which combines with the Port of Seattle to form the fourth largest gateway for containerized cargo in our nation.

The Port of Tacoma accounts for more than 43,000 jobs and generates \$637 million in annual wages in Pierce County. Design, Value Engineering, and Traffic Modeling Studies have confirmed the need for the improvements. Interchange reconstruction will improve access for trucks traveling to and from the Port of Tacoma.

For these reasons and more, I urge you to fund the I-5/Port of Tacoma Road Interchange Improvement Project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kris Johnson", with a long, sweeping underline.

Kris Johnson
President & CEO