

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 19, 2018

A. Leonard Smith, Regional Director
Economic Development Agency
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, WA 98174

Dear Director Smith:

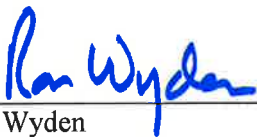
We write to express our support for the City of Cascade Locks' application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for grant assistance with its Electric Utility Hardening Project. This important project will improve the resilience of the city's electrical system and is consistent with the goals of EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program.

In 2017, the City of Cascade Locks endured a series of winter storms that downed overhead power lines and caused prolonged outages for up to five days. At the request of Oregon Governor Kate Brown, the Administration declared the situation a major disaster. Businesses in Cascade Locks suffered losses relating to the electrical outages along with dramatic isolation as the main interstate that accesses the city was closed for much of the storm. Repairing the power lines alone cost the city \$210,000. Months later, the City of Cascade Locks found itself again cut off from the outside world due to the devastating Eagle Creek wildfire that threatened their town and closed the interstate.

Since the storms and wildfire, the City of Cascade Locks has worked diligently to create a more resilient electrical system. The Electric Utility Hardening Project seeks to improve resiliency to outages and disasters, ensure system stability and expand the city's electrical distribution capacity. It aims to accomplish these goals by putting power lines underground, hardening transmission lines, installing lines to provide power to the industrial park and installing equipment to allow load transfers between two substations. These improvements will allow the city to minimize electrical outages during natural disasters. By making the electrical system more resilient in the future and building on the benefits from past investments the city has made to its electrical system, the city's ability to attract and retain businesses in the community will be greatly enhanced.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the City of Cascade Locks' application for EDA grant assistance with its Electric Utility Hardening Project. If you have any questions about our support for this project, please contact Jacob Egler in Senator Wyden's office at 541-330-9142 or Dan Mahr in Senator Merkley's office at 503-593-5497.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator