

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing to support Whatcom County's application to the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) *Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)* grant program for the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Project. A \$25 million grant would enable Whatcom County to replace the 60-year-old Lummi Island Ferry with a battery-hybrid vessel that would reduce carbon emissions, reasonably accommodate ridership growth, and would provide reliable emergency response capabilities.

Lummi Island is a rural community with Lummi Island Ferry providing the only connection between the island and the mainland of Whatcom County in Washington State. The ferry is one of the state's oldest vessels and past the end of its useful life. This funding would be a major long-term investment that would serve the Lummi Island community for the next 40 to 50 years. The new vessel would modernize obsolete infrastructure and preserve an affordable connection to Lummi Island.

Based on an extensive community engagement process conducted by Whatcom County Public Works and the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee, the new ferry would be a 34-car, hybrid powered vessel. This hybrid technology would allow Whatcom County Public Works to utilize electricity for operations, reducing the county's reliance on diesel fuel.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We appreciate your full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

Sincerely,



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress
Washington 1st District



Maria Cantwell
Member of U.S. Senate
Washington 1st District



Patty Murray
Member of Congress
Washington 1st District



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress
Washington 2nd District