



February 9, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
 Secretary  
 U.S. Department of Transportation  
 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
 Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As leaders of many of the Puget Sound's largest employers, we write to ask your support for an ongoing partnership with the federal government on infrastructure that ensures our region continues to thrive and contribute significantly to the national economy.

The next federal partnership project for the Puget Sound region is the Lynnwood Link light rail extension connecting the cities of Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, Shoreline and Seattle. Currently the regional transit authority, Sound Transit, is working with the Federal Transit Administration to secure a \$1.2 billion Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) to construct Lynnwood Link. As industry leaders, we urge you to continue working with Sound Transit to execute the grant in 2018 and enable the on-time completion of this critical project.

The Puget Sound region is one of the fastest growing in the U.S. and will be home to 5 million people and 1.2 million new jobs by 2040. The region helps fuel the national economic engine, making dramatic contributions in exports and innovation, manufacturing and agriculture.

Because of the national and international reach of many of our companies & institutions, Puget Sound businesses support jobs and industries across the U.S. Suppliers to our manufacturing firms, growers of

agricultural products, and partners of major technology and research companies all depend on their links to the Puget Sound.

Washington State is the largest U.S. exporter to China and is in the country's top five exporting states. Our ports also make up the fourth largest container complex in the U.S. In 2016, Washington State exports contributed \$2.21 trillion to our nation's goods and services. However, crushing congestion threatens our region and nation's continued economic momentum and our residents' quality of life. In the I-5 corridor, our principal north/south interstate, congestion has increased 153 percent in the last six years. And this has had a dramatic impact on our ability to move freight to and from our international seaports. Fortunately, our citizens are tackling these critical transportation challenges through the dedication of significant local taxes. Washington residents are maintaining and improving highways through the second highest gas tax in the nation, at 49.4 cents per gallon. In addition, three separate voter-approved initiatives are also building mass transit infrastructure recognizing that our highways and arterials alone cannot keep this economy moving. Once completed, our voter-approved transit network will literally take hundreds of thousands of cars off of I-5 and other critical arterials. There is no question that our transportation infrastructure, including our public transit infrastructure, directly serves a national purpose by ensuring businesses in this region can function at peak levels of efficiency and productivity.

Local revenues are providing 84 percent of the robust transit expansion now underway in the Puget Sound region, but the region envisions a continued federal participation for the balance. By leveraging local dollars and with a continuing federal partnership, together we can profoundly improve our regional mobility and the nation's economy. Our region has made good on past federal funding and financing by delivering major projects ahead of schedule and within budget.

By executing the Lynnwood Link FFGA this year we urge you to recognize the tremendous level of local investment by continuing the federal partnership that has kept this region a leading contributor to the national economy.

Thank you for your interest in the Puget Sound region and your commitment to transportation infrastructure. As always, we would welcome you to visit Central Puget Sound to see first-hand the innovative approaches we're taking to build transportation infrastructure and enhance mobility in our region.

Sincerely,



Diana Birkett Rakow  
Vice President, External Relations  
Alaska Airlines



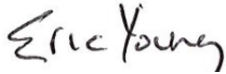
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Chief Executive Officer  
Expedia



Eric Young  
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Google



Brad Smith  
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Northwest Seaport Alliance



Lisa Lefebvre  
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Port of Seattle



Commissioner Donald Meyer  
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Port of Tacoma



Eric Artz  
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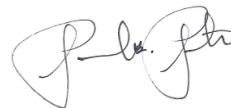
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cc:

Puget Sound Congressional Delegation  
K. Jane Williams, Deputy Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, USDOT  
Sound Transit Board of Directors  
Peter Rogoff, Chief Executive Officer, Sound Transit