

ADAM SMITH
9TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON
2264 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-8901
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
RANKING MEMBER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4709

DISTRICT OFFICE
15 SOUTH GRADY WAY, SUITE 101
RENTON, WA 98057
(425) 793-5180
TOLL FREE 1-888-SMITH09
<http://adamsmith.house.gov>
http://twitter.com/Rep_Adam_Smith
<https://www.facebook.com/RepAdamSmith>

March 25, 2014

Mr. Matt Erskine
Acting Assistant Secretary for Economic Development
US Economic Development Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Erskine,

I am writing in support of the Puget Sound Regional Council's (PSRC) efforts on behalf of the Washington Aerospace Manufacturing Community to earn the designation of a Manufacturing Community through the federal Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership initiative. This designation would ensure that the aerospace industry in Washington State will remain a strong competitor internationally.

Washington's Aerospace Manufacturing Community has the largest cluster of aerospace manufacturers in the world. With over 132,000 workers spread across 1,350 different aerospace companies throughout the community, the Washington Aerospace Manufacturing Community is an influential part of the aerospace industry and our state's economy.

The two counties that make up Washington's 9th Congressional District are home to a large number of aerospace manufacturing jobs and corporations. The aerospace industry in our area has benefited from the strong cooperation of industry, labor, and government leaders in the past, and I am confident that this will continue long into the future.

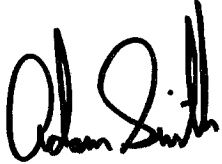
The infrastructure of King and Pierce Counties is uniquely suited to aerospace manufacturing. This area is home to the largest international airport in the state, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, and the 9th largest port by volume in the country, the Port of Tacoma. Combined with easy access to major roadways, this well-developed infrastructure makes our region a very attractive place to do business for the hundreds of aerospace firms located here.

Furthermore, local educational institutions and community leaders have stepped up to cultivate a skilled workforce that will ensure the personnel needs of current and future aerospace manufacturers will be adequately met. Nine academic institutions in these two counties have partnered with the Center of Excellence for Aerospace and Advanced Materials Manufacturing to develop and enhance training programs uniquely oriented to aerospace workers.

Receiving a designation as a Manufacturing Community would enable the Washington Aerospace Manufacturing Community to better utilize public and private investments, further

strengthening its standing as a competitor on a global scale. I ask that you give the PSRC's application your full and fair consideration consistent with applicable law, rules and regulations. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact my office at (425) 793-5180.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "S".

Adam Smith
Member of Congress