

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

June 1, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Lummi Nation, Fisherman's Cove Working Waterfront  
FOA: Fiscal Year 2015 TIGER Discretionary Funding (TIGER VII)

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of the Lummi Nation's TIGER VII application to support a critical environmental and economic development initiative in Northwest Washington: the Fisherman's Cove Working Waterfront Project. Though the Lummi Nation operates one of the largest fishing fleets on the West Coast, there is no harbor that functions as the home port for this major regional industry. If awarded, funding for this project will support the completion of environmental permitting, engineering, and investigations for the creation of a protected harbor and improvements to the Lummi Nation's commercial pier and fuel dock, as well as the ferry dock and trestle currently operated by Whatcom County.

The protected commercial harbor at Gooseberry Point will serve as a hub for marine operations in Whatcom County, fostering an environment that is ripe for business development and growth in this million dollar industry that supports approximately 3,400 local jobs. The marina will provide moorage for 180 tribal and non-tribal vessels, a dry-stack storage building, and boat repair and fishing net layout areas on a portion of 13,000 acres of marine tidelands managed by the Lummi Nation. A saw-tooth pier will expedite delivery of the fleet's catch to the Nation's existing processing plant. Throughout the development of this project, the Lummi Nation has ensured minimal environmental impact and has developed a first-of-its kind floating harbor.

Located adjacent to the County-operated Lummi Island Ferry Terminal, the marina will improve upland road and parking infrastructure for ferry patrons including through the expansion of parking, pavement, signage, and restrooms facilities. The twenty-car ferry runs 365 days a year, serving visitors to Lummi Island and its nine hundred residents.

The project leverages funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highways Administration that completed design, engineering, and right of way acquisition for the 1.8 mile pedestrian pathway that will connect the Gooseberry Point area to the ferry terminal, future marina, and harbor. I am encouraged by the Lummi Nation's dedication to creating a working commercial harbor that will meet the needs of regional fishermen for decades to come. I urge you to give the Fisherman's Cove Working Waterfront Project full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

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