



Leading the Way

March 22, 2018

The Honorable Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

It's with significant forethought that the City Council of Kennewick requests your consideration of Qualified Opportunity Zone designation in Kennewick. We are prepared to foster and initiate projects that create job opportunities and economic development investment in census tracts that meet the criteria identified in the new Tax Cuts and Jobs Acts.

For your consideration, 33% of residents in Census tract 53005010901 live below poverty, and the unemployment rate is 8.7%. This tract contains more than 100 contiguous acres of land owned by the Port of Kennewick, which is initiating a mixed use development this year that will accommodate employment opportunities, affordable housing, and economic benefit for the neighborhood and entire region.

Additionally, the 45% of residents who are living below poverty in tract 53005011200, which has a 14.1% unemployment rate, would benefit from development in the adjacent tract 53005011300. Although high density multifamily residential in tract 53005011200 makes it difficult to accommodate commercial growth, just blocks away, tract 53005011300 (also an eligible census tract) is already an active redevelopment focus for the City and Port of Kennewick. Additional investment would spur mixed use development that positively impacts the entire area. At the intersection of our history and our future, this area is as diverse in its demographic makeup as it is in its capacity for commercial industry employment offerings.

The City is partnering with the Port on infrastructure, development and advancement in both tracts, and additional Opportunity Fund investment would help low-income residents realize the benefits sooner. If you would include these tracts (53005010901 & 53005011300) in your Opportunity Zone certification request to the Secretary of Treasury, we are poised to make the most of the designation.

We encourage your office to contact City Manager Marie Mosley (509.585.4251) and/or Economic Development Manager Miles Thomas (509.585.4450) to discuss our commitment to capitalizing on these and all opportunities to assist our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Britain".

Don Britain, Mayor
City of Kennewick

Office of the Mayor

210 W. 6th Ave • PO Box 6108 • Kennewick, WA 99336-0108
(509) 585-4238 • Fax (509) 585-4445 • go2kennewick.com