



PORT of KENNEWICK

COMMISSIONERS | DON BARNES | THOMAS MOAK | SKIP NOVAKOVICH

March 22, 2018

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

Re: Letter of Support for *Qualified Opportunity Zone* designations in *Kennewick, WA*

Dear Governor Inslee:

This letter is to support City of Kennewick's request to designate two census tracts (53005011300 and 53005010901) as Qualified Opportunity Zones. The continued growth of the Tri-Cities region is dependent upon collaborative partnerships to both initiate projects and ensure development which supports thoughtful growth strategies and creates sustainable outcomes for future generations. Your office's work to establish Qualified Opportunity Zones in Washington State is a visionary effort offering a holistic approach to economic development.

The Port of Kennewick supports the city's request for designating the Columbia Drive and Vista Field census tract areas as Qualified Opportunity Zones. Such a designation would help attract high-quality development to revitalize tired neighborhoods, spur new employment, increase job retention, and protect critical farmland and open spaces by encouraging responsible in-fill development.

We are already partnering with the City of Kennewick and other entities to dedicate resources to the Columbia Drive and Vista Field areas—in fact, our collaborative efforts within the Columbia Drive Revitalization Area was named the 2017 Smart Communities/Smart Partnership by your office and the Washington State Department of Commerce. However, designation as Qualified Opportunity Zones would offer additional investment outcomes and foster mixed-use urbanization to benefit the entire Tri-Cities region.

Sincerely,

Tana Bader Inglima
Deputy CEO