



2021-18

September 14, 2021

P.O. Box 1350
338 West First Street
Port Angeles
Washington 98362
360.457.8527

Board of Commissioners
Steven Burke, *President*
Colleen McAleer, *Vice President*
Connie Beauvais, *Secretary*
Executive Director
Geoff James

Washington State Public Works Board

RE: Support for the Clallam County Broadband Project – Washington State Public Works Board
Grant Application for Expanding Broadband in Unserved and Underserved Areas

Dear Public Works Board Members,

The Port of Port Angeles fully supports Clallam County's pursuit for funding from the Washington State Public Works Board to expand broadband coverage in unserved and underserved areas of Clallam County. This effort is greatly needed in the grant's project area, beginning at the Highway 101/Highway 112 junction and going through Joyce, Washington.

The need for targeted Broadband speeds in unserved and underserved areas is a critical undertaking designed to ensure that Clallam County has access to reliable and affordable broadband service to allow for tele-working, remote learning and tele-medicine. Reliable broadband services will allow access to on-line businesses and government services, reducing vehicle traffic and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Clallam County.

The Port of Port Angeles supports improvements in broadband as a fundamental component of improving the strength of our community, local economy and improving the skills of our workforce. The Port of Port Angeles advocates for increased funding for broadband, is engaged in broadband policy and legislative efforts and participates in the Washington Public Ports Association Broadband Committee as well as our local Broadband Action Team. The Port of Port Angeles was successful in completing a CERB (Community Economic Revitalization Board) funded Broadband Feasibility Study. This grant application for expanding broadband service builds upon what was identified as unserved and underserved areas in our County through the feasibility study.

We strongly encourage you to support the Clallam County Broadband Project grant application so that the unserved and underserved residents in Clallam County have the opportunity to access broadband and contribute in a more meaningful way to our community and local economy.

Best Regards,

Steven D. Burke
President

Colleen M. McAleer
Vice-President

Connie L. Beauvais
Secretary

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