

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

23-0089194

September 28, 2023

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: EDA-TECHHUBSPHASE1-2023 "Pacific Northwest Mass Timber Tech Hub"

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

We write today regarding the proposal submitted for a Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program Phase 1 funding opportunity titled, "Pacific Northwest Mass Timber Tech Hub," led by Oregon State University (OSU) in collaboration with members of the Oregon Mass Timber Coalition and other partners in Washington.

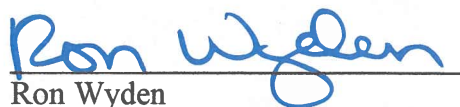
The Pacific Northwest is a leader in the forest products industries including engineering, manufacturing, construction, and the emerging field of mass timber design. In recent years, the Oregon Mass Timber Coalition (consisting of OSU, University of Oregon, Port of Portland, Oregon Department of Forestry, Business Oregon, and Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development) has demonstrated capacity to drive investments and actions that are strengthening opportunities in the Pacific Northwest through several federal and state awards, such as an Economic Development Administration (EDA) Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership award, an EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge award, and most recently a National Science Foundation Regional Innovation Engine planning grant. The Pacific Northwest Mass Timber Tech Hub will build on and leverage these ongoing activities with clear new goals to advance efforts that support a sustainable and globally competitive mass timber manufacturing and design sector in the Pacific Northwest.


The Pacific Northwest Mass Timber Tech Hub will drive successful lab-to-market initiatives through a robust innovation ecosystem that links entrepreneurs with targeted resources. The Tech Hub will connect researchers and industry and serve as an incubator for new start-ups using these products. Additionally, the Tech Hub will foster the creation of new, high-wage job opportunities across design, construction, forestry, and manufacturing that can meet emergent needs as the industry expands. And, importantly, the Tech Hub will work with community partners to attract investments in rural communities close to the fiber supply and to urban communities with large scale construction opportunities.

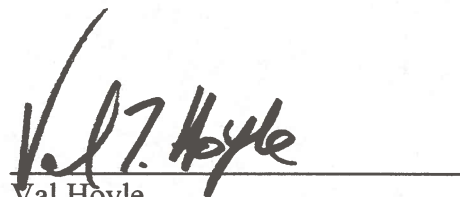
The Pacific Northwest Mass Timber Tech Hub coalition is comprised of experienced partners throughout Oregon and Washington, with clear goals to facilitate impactful connections between industry, community, and university partners in both rural and urban communities in the region for economic growth and global competitiveness. The Pacific Northwest is a prime location for a world-class manufacturing and design cluster in mass timber.

Thank you for your attention to the Pacific Northwest Mass Timber Tech Hub proposal. We strongly urge your full, fair and efficient consideration of this broadly-supported, game-changing application for the EDA Tech Hub program.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

  
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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

  
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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress