

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1201

May 12, 2019

Ms. Deb Smith  
Clearwater Economic Development Association  
1626 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Lewiston, ID 83501-1539

Dear Ms. Smith:

I write in support of the Clearwater Economic Development Association's "Economic Impact and Needs Assessment of the Cruise boat and Passenger Vessel Industry in the Lewis-Clark Valley" grant application to the Economic Development Administration. I understand this study will quantify the current economic impacts of the industry, assess growth trends and help communities identify current and future capacity needs.

Cruise boat travel to the Lewis-Clark Valley continues to grow, which provides increased opportunities for local businesses to serve ships, passengers and crew members. In 2017, more than 24,000 passengers and crew spent time in the Lewis-Clark region. While the growth trend is exciting, I also understand it creates challenges as the community assesses what steps need to be taken to sustain and grow economic development opportunities.

I understand this study will identify all the local jobs that are tied to cruise boat and passenger vessel industry as well as increasing tourists that support hotels, restaurants, fuel sales, and other local attractions. This assessment will also help the Lewis-Clark Valley plan for future development and provide necessary statistics to support the multiple uses of the river system and the flows necessary to support this industry.

I urge the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration to give this application all due consideration.

Sincerely,



Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress