

CATES

Center for Advanced Transportation and Energy Solutions

October 15, 2021

Bob Harrison, City Manager
City of Yakima
129 North 2nd Street
Yakima, WA 98901

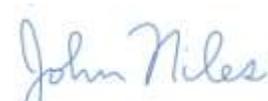
Dear Mr. Harrison:

The Center for Advanced Transportation and Energy Solutions (CATES), a Washington State based non-profit corporation, is pleased to provide its staunch support and endorsement of the EDA Build Back Better Phase 1 Regional Challenge Grant Application for the Yakima Sustainable Aviation Growth Cluster. CATES is a research, development, and advocacy organization focused on low carbon, sustainable, transportation mobility. Investing in an environmentally sound, productive transportation infrastructure is a pathway to a competitive economy, higher paying jobs, entrepreneurial opportunities and mobility services for all citizens. CATES' senior team of three principals will eagerly perform the tasks defined for us in the Phase 1 Build Back Better Grant Application.

As Washington's Green Economy Working Group recommended in its June 30, 2020, report to the State Legislature "decarbonizing the transportation sector must be a strong priority to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions." Accelerating the transition to electric aviation is a smart target for an economic development cluster given the existing assets in the Yakima region including: 1) home to forty-one aerospace companies; 2) City-owned Yakima Air Terminal established in 1928; 3) the accredited aviation program and flight training academy at Central Washington University; and 4) the nation's premier zero carbon electric power grid.

CATES will participate as a Coalition member and support the Regional Economic Competitiveness Officer to grow the Electric Aviation Cluster. We envision Yakima as a globally recognized center of excellence where electric aviation entrepreneurs, manufacturers, talent and international aircraft companies will locate and thrive. CATES looks forward to connecting the initiative to the global electric aviation community during Phase 1 and preparing a Sustainability Growth Plan for Phase 2.

We have read and contributed to the EDA proposal. CATES is excited about the development and launch of the Yakima Air Terminal as the alternative energy airport of the future, growing to become the center of a globally connected cluster for electric aviation, supported with innovation, manufacturing, entrepreneurship, and workforce development.



John Niles
Executive Research Director



Steve Marshall
Executive Policy Director



Egils Milbergs
Innovation Acceleration Director