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January 31, 2022

The Honorable Alejandra Y. Castillo
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development
Economic Development Administration (EDA)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Suite 71014
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support to Los Angeles County's Proposal
American Rescue Plan Act Good Jobs Challenge

Dear Honorable Asst. Secretary Castillo:

On behalf of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC), we submit this Letter of Support of Los Angeles County's American Rescue Plan Act Good Jobs Challenge EDA Grant application.

Our purpose is to improve the health and well-being of the Los Angeles American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) community. We accomplish our purpose through many strategies, including but not limited to increasing the acquisition of funding resources available to the AIAN community, advocating for policy that will improve the health and well-being of AIANs, and gathering and disseminating information about AIANs in Los Angeles County.

According to the American Community Survey's 2018 5-year estimates, AIANs in California had the second lowest employment to population ratio among racial/ethnic groups and AIAN and Black Californians posted employment to population ratios at least 5 percentage points below every other group over this 5-year period. Unfortunately, we know that the COVID-19 pandemic has only worsened the employment landscape for the AIAN community.

This program's objective is to advance equity within vulnerable communities by assisting individuals enter the Zero Emissions Transportation, Clean Energy, and Smart & Sustainable Cities sectors and increase wage growth, as well as develop demand-driven systems that will continue to support community members including ours in securing and retaining quality jobs.

We support LA County's "Southern California Green Careers Accelerator" proposal because it aligns with LANAIC's goals/mission/values. We are especially supportive of LA County's proposed workforce development strategy to advance equity within vulnerable communities by assisting individuals enter the clean energy job workforce and increase wage growth, as well as develop demand-driven systems that will continue to support these community members in securing and retaining quality jobs.

We strongly endorse Los Angeles County's proposal and urge your serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheri Thomas
Chairperson, Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission

Cc: Minh S. Le, County of Los Angeles

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