



December 8, 2014

RE: Fort Worden Public Development Authority (PDA)
Fort Worden Hospitality Business and Investment Plan

Dear CERB Board,

On behalf of the EDC Team Jefferson, the Board of Directors would like to add its support for the Fort Worden PDA grant application to the CERB Board.

As the designated Associated Development Organization (ADO) for Jefferson County, we know how important Fort Worden is to the Port Townsend-area economy.

We strongly support the Public Development Authority's efforts to revitalize, reinvest in and bring new hospitality and conference business to Fort Worden. Fort Worden has a huge economic and social impact throughout the region. The City has identified Fort Worden as one of three "anchor areas" of its economic development strategy.

Unfortunately, due to state budget constraints, there is a growing backlog of deferred maintenance of the facilities that support the hospitality services at Fort Worden. The PDA is well poised to assess its resources, develop a list of priority improvements and facilities, and identify and recruit new public/private partnerships to assure the sustainability of the Fort Worden Conference Center. These improvements and partnerships will be necessary to support conference bookings and overnight accommodation growth that have decreased dramatically in recent years.

The PDA, in concert with the City's marketing efforts, can target the right corporate groups, association and government entities to recruit more business conferences, workshops and symposia to the Fort. This grant will fund important planning efforts that will guide these important tasks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Quinn", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Quinn
Executive Director

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