Skagit County
Board of Commissioners

Ron Wesen, First District
Peter Browning, Second District
Lisa Janicki, Third District

January 11, 2023

Sara Young, Executive Director
Port of Skagit
15400 Airport Drive
Burlington, WA 98233

RE: Washington State Broadband Office grant request—Port of Skagit County

To: Sara Young and Skagit County Broadband Action Team (BAT):

Skagit County is pleased to support the Port of Skagit's request for a broadband infrastructure grant through the Washington State Broadband Office. This funding would allow them to build in the Bow area of Skagit County, increasing fiber connectivity for these underserved constituents. We believe high speed internet is critical to our community, especially in traditionally under-represented populations.

To date, the Port of Skagit has made significant investments in their community fiber optic network and this grant would give the Port the opportunity to expand its current efforts to bring high-speed and affordable broadband to these areas of the Skagit County community.

Skagit County has previously committed in excess of $3.5 million to the Port of Skagit's fiber projects. Broadband connectivity remains a priority for us as the Board of County Commissioners. This requested funding would allow our previous investments in the fiber backbone of Skagit County to be actualized by consumers in the area by bringing fiber to the door of many in-need community members.

We support the efforts of organizations, such as the Port of Skagit and our Skagit County BAT, that emphasize the inclusion and representation of traditionally under-represented populations as a fundamental piece of broadband and digital equity planning for the State of Washington.

We look forward to collaborating with like-minded organizations and individuals to ensure the digital equity needs of our local communities are embodied in the overall planning effort.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Ron Wesen, Chair

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Peter Browning, Commissioner