

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 27, 2022

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge Notice of Funding Opportunity EDA-HDQ-ARPBBS-2021-2006976 – Phase 2

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

We are pleased to write this letter of support for the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance (LVGEA) and the Southern Nevada's Build Back Better Coalition's Phase 2 proposal to the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Build Back Better Regional Challenge. This funding would both help our regional economy recover from the pandemic, and build economic diversity and resiliency to mitigate impacts of future economic challenges.

The coalition's proposal focuses on the growth of Southern Nevada's advanced manufacturing industry cluster through the advancement of four tightly-aligned, transformative projects with an emphasis on job creation, economic output, equity, and sustainability. Together, these projects will create a long-term, transformational plan for rebuilding Southern Nevada's economy that is fully-aligned with the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

The devastating impact of COVID-19 on Southern Nevada is undeniable and includes continued high unemployment. Given how important Southern Nevada is to the overall economic health of our state, foresight and planning are critical to bring both strong economic recovery to existing businesses and future pandemic mitigation through economic diversification. Recovery in Southern Nevada will be necessary for the effective recovery of all of Nevada.

The pandemic has made clear the value of regional investments in infrastructure, economic recovery planning, and workforce retraining and realignment. The projects proposed will provide much-needed response and recovery efforts in Southern Nevada and will greatly benefit the community's residents and workers.

LVGEA is uniquely positioned as a public-private partnership to lead these projects. With a 50-member board of directors from across the region, which includes state, county, and local elected officials and leaders, as well as education and business leaders, LVGEA can leverage these grants and partnerships to coordinate robust efforts for the economic response, recovery, and resiliency of Southern Nevada.

We request that you assess the value and impact this effort will have on the devastated Southern Nevada economy. Please give this application your full and fair consideration. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any of us or our staffs.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate



Jacky Rosen
United States Senate



Dina Titus
United States House of Representatives



Mark Amodei
United States House of Representatives



Susie Lee
United States House of Representatives



Steven Horsford
United States House of Representatives

CC: Alejandra Castillo, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, U.S. Department of Commerce