



Haas Automation, Inc.

February 18, 2022

Mr. John Edmond, Regional Representative
Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Seattle Regional Office
Jackson Federal Building
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, WA 98174-1001

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

Dear Mr. Edmond:

On behalf of Haas Automation, I am writing to share our support for Southern Nevada's Build Back Better Regional Challenge Phase 2 grant proposal, led by the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance (LVGEA). The proposal focuses on the growth of the Southern Nevada region's advanced manufacturing industry cluster through the advancement of four (4) tightly aligned, transformative projects with an emphasis on job creation, economic outputs, equity, and sustainability. Together, these projects will create a long-term, transformational plan for rebuilding Southern Nevada's regional economy that is fully aligned with the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs).

Haas Automation is the America's largest manufacturer of CNC machine tools, producing over 15,000 machines per year from its factory in Oxnard California. Haas is in the early stages of construction on its new state-of-the-art 2.5 million square-foot factory in Henderson Nevada. When completed, that facility will employ 2000 people, many of them in advanced manufacturing roles such as engineering, machining, quality control, and assembly.

Workforce development has always been a priority of Haas Automation. 25 years ago, Haas began rolled out its Haas Technical Education Center (HTEC) program which has grown to more than 2000 high schools, community colleges, technical training centers, and universities across America. Haas provides machine tools for teaching at a deep discount, along with numerous value-added benefits including membership in the HTEC community which encourages collaboration between educators and provides access to teacher training programs at low or no cost. These partnerships with educators also led to Haas Automation's support for local, state, and national SkillsUSA CNC contests, a role we've played for more than 10 years.

Our Founder and CEO Gene Haas also recognize that philanthropy plays an important role in community development and economic development initiatives in our region by helping to build capacity and advance innovation and programs that improve quality of life in our region. To that end, the Gene Haas Foundation has been an ongoing supporter for more than 20 years of advanced manufacturing jobs through scholarship programs and naming rights on training centers nationwide. In Nevada, the Gene Haas Foundation has stepped up those efforts through major partnerships with the College of Southern Nevada and University of Nevada Las Vegas, as well as funding for numerous community-support organizations all across Southern Nevada.

Haas Automation looks forward to working with LVGEA and the Southern Nevada's Build Back Better Coalition on Phase 2 of this initiative. LVGEA is an important lead for this grant, and the breadth of the partners assembled to establish the coalition behind this proposal signals the community is aligned in our understanding of the opportunity this grant will bring to enhancing our regional economy in the identified project areas.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at my email or phone number below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Zierhut", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Zierhut
Vice President
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