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May 7, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Derek Kilmer
U.S. House of Representatives
2059 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Murray and Cantwell and Representative Kilmer:

The Port of Port Angeles is proud to support the Composite Recycling Technology Center's (CRTC) efforts in technical excellence and local job creation, and we request your support for their FY22 Defense Appropriations request. CRTC is requesting \$5.5 million to continue working with DOD to further explore the benefits of using cross-laminated timber and recycled carbon fiber for deployable military structures.

The military has been investigating the expanded use of cross laminated timber (CLT) for forward deployment, multi-soldier and family housing, and other field structures. CLT has the potential to meet many of the critical demands of the military given that it is highly durable, blast resistant and low-cost relative to other solutions. However, traditional CLT uses non-treated lumber and does not perform well in certain conditions, including the temperature and humidity extremes found in many military settings. This is why CRTC has been working with DOD to explore applications that utilize thermally modified and treated wood for CLTs and which incorporate recycled carbon fiber composite reinforcements, all of which would make CLT much better suited for a wider range of military uses.

The potential benefits are enormous and could result in safer, more secure, and more durable housing for soldiers, as well as provide for a flat-packed system that is easy to transport to rugged field sites, quick to erect on inhospitable terrain, and is re-deployable unlike some of the other offerings. The benefits will also extend across the coastal regions of Washington State – widespread usage of this technology by the military could stimulate harvesting of coastal western hemlock, which would create jobs in rural districts and boost output capacities for lumber mills. New kiln drying and thermal modification facilities would also need to be established, along with a new industry developed around factory-built, flat-packed housing. Furthermore, the recycled fibers utilized by CRTC are coming from supply chains in the I-5 corridor and out to Moses Lake, and ultimately, recycled wind turbine blades will contribute to input materials, all of which would divert waste from Washington's landfills and increase the use of recycled carbon fiber.

Funding was included in the FY21 Defense Appropriations bill to initiate a small investigatory project and to begin the evaluation. This request would allow DOD to continue this important work and allow for a broader and more in-depth analysis.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Karen F. Goschen, Executive Director

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