

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 12, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

We are writing today in support of the city of Las Vegas' efforts to obtain funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) grant to support redevelopment efforts in the Historic Westside on Jackson Avenue. The city seeks to promote economic empowerment in the community by partnering with landowners to spur neighborhood revitalization and regenerate local economic activity back to Jackson Avenue.

The Historic Westside has seen significant disinvestment over the past 50 years and the community has been hard-hit economically. Census estimates from 2020 show the median household income for this predominantly minority community being less than 50% of the area's median income with 34% of residents living in poverty. Although the community is absent its once known vitality, landowners, many of whom have inherited their property from family members, desire to return Jackson Avenue to its former glory.

Funding from the EDA grant is critical to the city's endeavor to redevelop Jackson Avenue. The city will utilize funding to partner with landowners and provide them with technical assistance and special training throughout the redevelopment process. Furthermore, the city has committed to providing market analysis and streamlined internal processes towards this effort.

The redevelopment of vacant lots on Jackson Avenue builds off of the city's community-driven plan and commitment to reconnect community in the Historic Westside. Funding from the EDA PWEAA grant helps the city to pave the way for transformation in the entire community from its now vacant lots and defunct buildings to a street lined with shops, restaurants, and small businesses adding to recent street improvements and a reimagined recreational area.

For these reasons, and the hardworking residents and workers of the Historic Westside, please give the city's application your full and fair consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us, or our staff.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senate



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senate



Dina Titus  
United States House of Representatives



Steven Horsford  
United States House of Representatives