



March 19 2026

The Honorable Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
U.S. House of Representatives
1431 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515-4703

RE: Support for City of Chehalis Decant Facility and Drying Beds Project – FY27 Community Project Funding Request

Dear Congresswoman, Gluesenkamp Perez:

I am writing on behalf of the Economic Alliance of Lewis County to express our strong support for the City of Chehalis' request for \$4.5 million in federal funding for a new decant facility with drying beds.

From an economic development perspective, this is the type of behind-the-scenes infrastructure investment that makes a real difference in how a community functions day by day. Businesses depend on reliable public services, and when cities are forced to rely on out-of-area facilities as is currently the case with Centralia, it adds cost, delays, and uncertainty that ripple beyond public works operations.

This project is about improving efficiency and keeping resources local. Reducing the need to haul materials between communities will save time and money, allowing City staff to focus on maintaining streets, utilities, and other essential services that support both residents and employers.

There is also a clear environmental benefit. Managing these materials locally, and more effectively, helps reduce the risk of pollutants reaching the Chehalis River system, an asset that is central to our region's identity, economy, and quality of life.

Projects like this don't always get much attention, but they are critical to sustaining growth and maintaining the infrastructure businesses rely on when choosing where to locate and expand. This investment will help ensure Chehalis remains a strong and competitive place to do business.

We appreciate your continued support for Southwest Washington and respectfully encourage you to support this request.

Sincerely,

Todd Chaput
Executive Director
Economic Alliance of Lewis County
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