

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0552

March 31, 2016

Patrick O'Brien
Director
Office of Economic Adjustment
U.S. Department of Defense
2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 520
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Letter of support for the City of San Diego's Application for Community Economic Adjustment Assistance for Reductions in Defense Industry Employment (CFDA #12.611)

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

I write in support of the City of San Diego's application for Community Economic Adjustment Assistance for Reductions in Defense Industry Employment grant. The City requests \$1.5 million to assess the region's defense manufacturing sector and to develop a strategy to help local businesses become more resilient and economically diverse in the event of the reduction or elimination of Department of Defense (DoD) business.

Creating a more adaptive workforce will enable our local economy to better withstand the ebb and flow of DoD contracts and funding. It will also strengthen the education, skills, and knowledge of our citizens and allow them to shift priorities and projects as needed to rely less heavily on DoD business.

The City of San Diego is collaborating with a number of local partners in this initiative: the County of San Diego; the East County Economic Development Council Foundation; the San Diego Military Advisory Council Foundation; the San Diego North Economic Development Council; the San Diego Regional Economic Development Foundation; the San Diego Workforce Partnership; and the South County Economic Development Council. Together with these regional partners, the City will use this funding to engage in critical information-gathering efforts, examine metrics, and mobilize efforts to address areas of concern. For example, the City plans to invest in updating the Connector, a digital resource for companies to showcase their assets and network with other businesses and government entities. Information gathered during this stage will also support the City of San Diego's second grant application aimed at creating and implementing programs to support local businesses and further diversify its economy.

The City and its partners will put these critical funds to good use in supporting San Diego's defense economy. Please let me know if my office can provide you with any further information, and thank you in advance for your consideration of the City's application.

Sincerely,



Congressman Scott Peters