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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

May 15, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

I write in support of the application submitted by the Educational and Cultural Trust Fund of the Electrical Industry for funding from the Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant Program administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce. This funding will be used to establish a wind safety training facility in the Village of Walden and the Town of Newburgh in Orange County, New York.

Founded in 1943, the Joint Board of the Electrical Industry aims to enhance employer-employee relationships, training, technology, and benefits for members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union No. 3 as well as the National Electrical Contractors Association. Administered by the Board, the Educational and Cultural Trust Fund of the Electrical Industry promotes the welfare of members, their families, and the community through a college tuition reimbursement program, compensation for wages lost during jury duty, skill-based educational courses, pre-retirement preparation seminars, and other supports.

The requested funding will be used to create an onshore/offshore wind safety training facility by renovating a building on land already owned by the Trust. Upon certifying the center with the Global Wind Organization, the Trust will offer a wind safety skills program based on GWO's existing curriculum. This new program will enhance the safety of a diverse workforce in a county where, according to the U.S. Census, 14.4 percent of residents live below the poverty line. As part of a statewide effort to promote clean energy workforce development, the program will involve the creation and retention of 2,700 good-paying green jobs over the next nine years. Beyond upskilling the regional workforce, the Trust will expand the offerings of its K-12 outreach program by introducing young New Yorkers to the electrical trade and sustainable energy. The new wind safety training facility will ensure the safety of workers at wind power facilities, encourage local youth to explore green careers, bolster the local economy, and contribute to climate resilience in Orange County.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Abi Jimenez, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

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