

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0510**

March 6, 2019

Mr. Dennis Alvord  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs  
Economic Development Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Stanislaus Business Alliance (Opportunity Stanislaus) application for EDA's Economic Adjustment Assistance grant to support the Building a Brighter Tomorrow program

Dear Mr. Alvord:

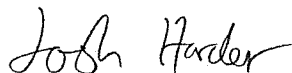
It is with great enthusiasm that my office lends its support to Opportunity Stanislaus' application for funding from the United States Economic Development Administration for the Building a Brighter Tomorrow (BBT) program. The grant will make the purchase of nearly \$2 million in advanced machinery and supplies possible, extending the school's current capacity and curriculum and meeting employer needs. This means the area will be closer to filling the hundreds of vacancies that currently exist in the manufacturing field in the Northern San Joaquin Valley.

Opportunity Stanislaus, in partnership with Modesto Junior College and the Stanislaus County Office of Education, is committed to advancing innovation and growing the local workforce through strong collaboration with the public and private sectors. They have demonstrated the ability to address skill gap issues in their daily work and through the success of VOLT Institute during its time in operation.

Given that the Stanislaus County is an area traditionally plagued by high unemployment and marked by training programs out of sync with the needs of private employers, this funding is badly needed. It is my belief that your investment in this partnership and BBT is an investment in the future of Stanislaus County residents for years to come.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this grant proposal submitted by Stanislaus Business Alliance (Opportunity Stanislaus). If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Office's Grants Manager, Briana Gonzalez, at (209) 579-5458.

Best regards,



Representative Josh Harder