



SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSION

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September 25, 2023

Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230

Subject: Letter of Support for Recompete Grant

To Whom it May Concern:

We are writing to express our support for Southeastern Utah Economic Development District's Recompete Strategy Development and Recompete Plan Approval applications submitted to the Economic Development Administration.

In San Juan, is a distressed County within the State of Utah with unique challenges. San Juan County's majority population is Native American belonging to the Ute and Navajo Nation tribes. Both of these tribal systems have significantly low high school and college graduation rates which then makes it difficult for local entrepreneurs entering into the job or business market. Another of San Juan County is that we are working with minimal populations that includes the vast distances between communities, and high poverty levels and high food insecurity which complicates the already challenging process of entrepreneurship and business development in the County.

Our organization supports the effort put forth by the Southeastern Utah Economic Development District in the proposal submitted. We are committed to assisting in ways to be determined in Phase II for the success of the region and the uplifting of communities with a high prime-age employment gap (PAEG). We look forward to participating in these activities to alleviate persistent economic distress and support long-term, comprehensive economic development and job creation in rural Utah. We appreciate your consideration of our application.

Sincerely,

Mack McDonald
Chief Administrative Officer