

January 10, 2020

Dear WEDA Awards Committee,

Columbia River Economic Development Council proudly nominates the Vigor Industrial project for the 2020 Winter WEDA Economic Development Project of the Year (Expansion) Award. This project was one that took many by surprise but proved to be a wonderful opportunity for partners to work together.

In 2017, Vigor was awarded a 10 year, nearly \$1 billion dollar contract with the United States Army to build their Maneuver Support Vessel landing craft. The company announced in early 2019 their desire to execute the contract work here in Vancouver, and soon after, the company selected the former Christensen Yachts property as the site for their expansion.

As a result of this sizable contract, 37 ships will be constructed, giving the local manufacturing industry a considerable increase. This expansion is expected to create approximately 300 family wage jobs, and the company plans to invest millions of dollars in capital upgrades and equipment to the site. It should be noted that Columbia River Economic Development Council was success in pursuing the Governor's Strategic Reserve Fund (SRF) on behalf of Vigor to offset the costs associated with the purchase of a new crane and for other necessary facility improvements.

To make this opportunity become a reality, several partners diligently and collaboratively came together in 2019. Countless hours and efforts were made by Columbia River Economic Development Council, City of Vancouver, Workforce Southwest Washington, and Department of Commerce on this project. Additionally, Greater Portland Inc. continuously offered their undeniable show of support.

With millions of dollars in capital investment made and 300 family-wage jobs created, Vigor's increased presence in the community will significantly contribute to our local economic strength. For more information on this project, a news article has been included.

Thank you,

Marnie Farness
Relationships and Strategy Manager