February 11, 2021

Lisa Brown, Director
Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 42525
Olympia, WA  98504-2525

Dear Director Brown:

Pursuant to Chapter 7, Laws of 2020, I hereby allocate $87,000,000 to the Department of Commerce from the Disaster Response Account-State.

Of the total amount, $43,500,000 is provided for additional eviction rental assistance. The intent is to prevent future evictions due to nonpayment of rent and is to be used for the period in which the department prepares to implement a new federal rental assistance program.

The remaining $43,500,000 is for additional business assistance grants to pay expenses, including but not limited to, rent, mortgage and utilities; technical assistance; and efforts to help prevent permanent closure of businesses. The department will focus on disproportionately impacted and/or historically disadvantaged businesses in all regions of the state.

The Disaster Response Account is made up of state funds and, unlike the Coronavirus Relief Funds previously allocated for these uses, must comply with state restrictions and requirements.

Using expenditure authority code 6C0, please submit the required allotment amendment packet to OFM using the “Operating Allocation” packet type. If you receive any federal funding for this purpose, report the amount and fund source to OFM so we can appropriately account for it.

If you have any questions, please contact OFM Budget Operations at (360) 902-0555 or budget.operations@ofm.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

David Schumacher
Director

cc:  Charlie Gavigan, Staff Coordinator, House Appropriations Committee
     Michael Bezanson, Staff Coordinator, Senate Ways and Means Committee
     Nona Snell, Assistant Director for Budget, Office of Financial Management
     Cheri Keller, Senior Budget Assistant, Office of Financial Management
     Martin McMurry, CFO, Department of Commerce