May 27, 2021

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

Dear Director Brown:

On February 11, 2021, I allocated $43,500,000 from the Disaster Response Account-State to the Department of Commerce, pursuant to Chapter 7, Laws of 2020. The purpose of this allocation was 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.

I am writing to redirect up to $2,500,000 of this allocation for the purpose of incentivizing individuals to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

The Disaster Response Account is made up of state funds and must comply with state restrictions and requirements. The funds may be used to preserve public health and promote public welfare, which are fundamental purposes of government. Incentivizing nonvaccinated residents to get vaccinated meets these criteria.

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