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June 29, 2018

Janet Baseman, PhD, MPH
Acting Associate Dean for Public Health Practice
University of Washington School of Public Health
Northwest Center for Public Health Practice
1107 NE 45th Street, Suite 400 Box 354809
Seattle, WA 98105-4631

Dear Dr. Baseman,

It was our pleasure to serve as a subject matter expert on your most recent public health preparedness and emergency response implementation and dissemination research project during 2016-2017 and am an enthusiastic supporter of the goals of your proposed REACT project. Research in emergency communications with rural populations has been a neglected area of preparedness and response research. From our work at ASTHO we have learned that improving emergency communication systems with rural populations and developing evidence-based recommendations and best practices for communicating with these populations would be a major step toward improving our PHEPR systems in the U.S. and reducing risk to vulnerable rural dwelling populations during and after emergencies.

I am writing in support of your application, **Rural Emergency Action & Communications (REACT) To Improve Response** submitted in response to CDC BAA 2018-N-67817: *Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response Applied Research*.

Based on our past experience, the preparedness and emergency response researchers and workforce training developers at the University of Washington School of Public Health will continue to produce important resources and offer expertise that will lead to increased public health workforce competency to prepare for and respond to emergencies. I wish you the best of luck with your proposal.

Sincerely,



Michael Fraser, PhD MS CAE FCPP
Chief Executive Officer