



Umatilla County Public Health

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March 22, 2024

Subject: Letter of support for CTUIR's CPRG Implementation Grant Application

Dear Director Feldon,

I am writing this letter to express my strong support for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)'s application for EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant Program.

In my role as the director of the Umatilla County Public Health Department, I have witnessed and greatly appreciated the positive influence of initiatives like the creation of the Priority Climate Action plan. These projects have played a crucial role in increasing awareness and placing a high priority on supporting environmental justice communities through funding opportunities. CTUIR has a long history of implementing measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially with natural climate solutions and working lands approach. If awarded the CPRG funding, I am confident they will be successful in expanding this work while centering those most affected.

The CPRG Implementation Grant application is a natural progression of CTUIR's historic and ongoing efforts to address the climate crisis. This much-needed allocation of funds would facilitate the expansion and enhancement existing efforts that have proven effective. Measures in this application will support transformational change for the Blue Mountains and Columbia River Basin communities, reducing carbon emissions, and strengthening regional partnerships to do this work. These measures are ready to implement and provide the most benefit possible in the near term while being guided by Tribal sovereignty and Indigenous knowledge. The need for this work is critical to reduce and prevent carbon emissions, as well as create vibrant and resilient communities that are integrally involved every step of the way.

Sincerely,



Joseph P. Fiumara Jr., MSEH, REHS
Director