



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

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March 27, 2024

Sent via electronic mail to: garyburke@ctuir.org

Gary I. Burke
Board of Trustees, Chair
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
46411 Timine Way
Pendleton, OR 97801

Dear Chair Burke,

I am writing this letter to express my strong support of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)'s application for EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant Program (CPRG). This is a valuable opportunity to support the leadership of Oregon's Tribes and their regional partnerships in carbon reduction and sequestration initiatives.

I am deeply appreciative of the work and dedication of CTUIR through their continued collaboration with ODEQ on this and other efforts and am proud of the robust and largely uncredited work that Tribes across Oregon have been doing to promote carbon sequestration. The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation have collaborated extensively with ODEQ for the CPRG planning grant in development of the Priority Climate Action Plan, including hosting two listening sessions for the Tribal community to voice their preference on carbon reduction strategies, to ensure the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent are being upheld in the CPRG process. Additionally, ODEQ will continue to collaborate with CTUIR on development of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan in future years, to ensure the central inclusion of Indigenous leadership and knowledge in carbon planning efforts. We feel our respective implementation grant applications are complimentary and align well with the unique goals and priorities of EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program.

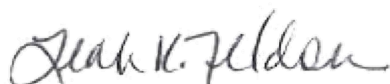
CTUIR has a long history of implementing measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially with natural climate solutions and working lands approaches. I am confident CPRG funding will expand this work, while centering those most impacted. Your dedication to engaging and prioritizing environmental justice communities through these opportunities will have a positive and lasting impact on Oregon's Tribal Nations and communities. The CPRG Implementation Grant is a progression of CTUIR's historic and ongoing efforts to address the climate crisis and would add much needed dispersion of funds to expand and enhance existing efforts that have been proven effective. Measures in this application will support transformational change for the CTUIR community, create good quality jobs that serve the Tribal government and community, reduce carbon emissions, and strengthen regional partnerships to do this work. Measures are ready to implement to provide the most benefit possible in the near term and are guided by Tribal sovereignty and Indigenous knowledge.

We are committed to continuing to support in the following ways:

- Engage and listen to CTUIR staff, citizens, and partners to understand how ODEQ can best support your efforts and programs.
- Share lessons learned through our own program implementation as well as find creative and collaborative solutions to challenges in implementation.
- Provide technical support on greenhouse gas reporting through sharing resources developed for Oregon's Sector Based Emissions Inventory and Consumption Based Emissions Inventory.

As always, we are here to support CTUIR's needs throughout the implementation process for these funds. ODEQ is excited about the opportunity to grow our partnership through the CPRG program and showcase Tribal leadership in this effort. We hope believe our work together through this grant can be used as a model for how other states and Tribal Nations within Oregon and around the country implement similar programs. We have already learned so much together and look forward to growing our collaborative approach to addressing complex climate issues to benefit those most impacted by climate change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leah K. Feldon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leah" being more prominent.

Leah Feldon

Cc: Whitney Dorer, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Morgan Schafer, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Roxy Nayar, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality