



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD**

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March 27, 2024

US Environmental Protection Agency  
Michael S. Regan, Administrator  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW,  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Regan,

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, (Workforce Board) is a supporter of Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) and is dedicated to supporting their efforts through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Projects, while simultaneously addressing workforce needs. The efforts of the UCUT tribes will include on-site training for climate resiliency careers.

The Workforce Board, established in 1991, is a tri-partite board made up of nine Governor-appointed members from labor, business, and government dedicated to helping Washington residents obtain family-wage jobs, while meeting employers' needs for a skilled workforce. Our vision is that every Washington community is thriving, inclusive and economically resilient. We are excited about the alignment of this project with our state strategic framework, the *Talent and Prosperity for All Plan*, which is committed to fostering a skilled and diverse workforce, closing economic disparities for marginalized populations, and providing comprehensive support for individuals with barriers to employment.

In meeting the needs specifically of the proposed CPRG investment in Washington State, we anticipate providing support as follows:

- 1. Policy Development and Advocacy:** We will provide our policy expertise to support the growth and sustainability of greenhouse gas reduction technologies in the transportation sector.
- 2. Apprenticeship Program Implementation:** Leveraging Washington's established apprenticeship frameworks and partnerships, the Workforce Board commits to encouraging the development and implementation of new or expanded curriculum and apprenticeship programs tailored to the specific needs of tribal groups in addressing climate pollution reduction.
- 3. Investment in Job Quality:** Consistent with our dedication to job quality, the Workforce Board commits to advocating for and supporting the development of high-quality jobs, ensuring fair wages and career progression opportunities for tribal communities.

These commitments, which are timely, targeted, measurable, and meaningful, will significantly contribute to the initiative's success and we are grateful for the opportunity to support UCUT, and we recommend funding their grant application.

Sincerely,

Eleni Papadakis  
Executive Director