



**PORT OF PEND OREILLE dba PEND OREILLE VALLEY RAILROAD**

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3/6/2024

Michael Fong  
Director  
Washington State Department of Commerce  
1011 Plum Street SE  
Olympia, WA 98504

**RE: Accelerating Washington State's Climate Commitments: A Bold & Inclusive Path to Net Zero Emissions**

Dear Director Fong:

On behalf of the Port of Pend Oreille Dba Pend Oreille Valley Railroad (POVA), we commit to supporting and partnering on the programs outlined in your grant application, *Accelerating Washington State's Climate Commitments: A Bold & Inclusive Path to Net Zero Emissions*, for the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program's (CPRG) Implementation Grants through the lifetime of the project period (up to five years after funds are awarded). POVA is committed to the goals of this grant application to implement ambitious, scalable measures to achieve significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and substantial community benefits across the transportation, built environment, and waste management sectors in alignment with Washington State's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP).

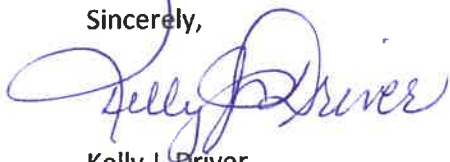
The Port of Pend Oreille is enabling the decarbonization of rail infrastructure by increasing energy efficiency of locomotive engines and reducing emissions associated with current locomotive technology and moving towards lower and zero-emissions rail. POVA is currently working towards expanding their work with Tier 3 and Tier 4 locomotive upgrades. The Port also intends to pilot a hydrogen refueling station and provide engine conversions for future hydrogen fuel cell trains. This port expansion project requires building onto the existing port facility and constructing a separate locomotive shop that would primarily focus on these types of locomotive upgrades. To complete this project, POVA will undertake the following activities:

1. *Repair Shop:* Design and construct a 40,000 +/- sq. ft. repair and maintenance four-bay shop for locomotives, large industrial vehicles, and smaller commercial vehicles. The new locomotive repair and maintenance shop would also incorporate sustainable development and design practices, including energy and water efficiency, and pursue LEED Certification.
2. *Blast Booth:* Convert the current blast booth from a wet to dry blasting process. Dry blast booths generally consume less energy compared to wet-blast booths since they do not require water heating or wastewater treatment. Additionally, dry blast processes often produce less waste and require fewer chemicals which further reduces environmental impacts.
3. *Hydrogen Fueling Station:* Install a new fueling station for hybrid locomotives. While this work is still in a research and development phase, the Port does intend to work with the PNW H2Hub and others to conduct logistical tests on our statewide hydrogen production and transportation.

These port expansion projects will increase the number of locomotive engine conversions to Tier 3 and Tier 4 locomotive standards which are currently the highest efficiency and performance standards to date. The larger facility will also allow the Port to increase its labor force to be able to convert more locomotive engines more efficiently. POVA and its project partners are already on track to complete 30 Tier 4 and at least 5 Tier 3 conversions in the next three years and is anticipating a continual, steady rate of increase for these types of conversions in the coming years ahead. In addition to GHG reductions, these facility upgrades will increase public safety and future proof the Pend Oreille Valley Railroad.

For these reasons, the Port of Pend Oreille strongly supports and commits to partnering with the Washington State Department of Commerce on its application for the CPRG Implementation Grants to accelerate the state's implementation of its climate goals. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kelly J. Driver  
Executive Director  
Port of Pend Oreille  
Dba Pend Oreille Valley Railroad