

Federal Grant Application Request

Department of Energy

USDA Rural Energy for America Grant Program

Analyst: Julie Neburka

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Business-Cooperative Service Agency, in the amount of \$100,000 for the 2015 Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Analysis: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance grant program provides funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for evaluating energy efficiency measures and assessing the potential to incorporate renewable energy technologies into their operations. The 2015 funding cycle provides grants of up to \$100,000. There are no match requirements, but the grantor will award additional points during application scoring to applicants demonstrating cost sharing up to 20% of the award. ODOE's application identifies \$20,000 of existing staff time that will be dedicated to the grant-funded project. The grant application is due on February 12, 2015, and awards will be announced in September, 2015.

The Department will use this grant to conduct renewable energy on-site assessments in Central Oregon, the Klamath Basin, and other rural and/or drought-stricken regions throughout the state. By partnering with Wy'East Resource Conservation and Development Council, which is submitting a separate REAP grant application in the same time frame, the number of energy efficiency evaluations can be leveraged, and more technical assistance can be provided to rural communities seeking energy cost savings in their agricultural and small business sectors.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request. If the grant is awarded, ODOE may return to the Legislature with a future request for additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation.