

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION OF OREGON



Warm Springs, Oregon 97761 / 541-553-1161

December 19, 2022

Forest Service Region 6
Attn: Jim Archuleta
1220 SW 3rd Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mr. Archuleta,

I am writing today on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS) in support of the City of Prineville's application for the United States Forest Service Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance program for permitting and design work for the Prineville Renewable Energy Project (PREP).

The PREP will provide an opportunity for thinning, restoration, and juniper remediation activities on more than 21,000 acres per year by creating a market for low value, residual, and waste biomass material. Currently there is no local outlet for these types of woody biomass in high-risk areas for wildland fire. Thus, the project offers a highly impactful way to manage and improve lands. It will also promote environmental justice through reduced wildfire risk.

Other benefits include positive impacts to air quality due to reduced wildfire risk and the facility offering a disposal alternative to open burning, as well as job creation and revitalization of the forest products industry in the region. Additionally, juniper remediation efforts and restoration of native plant/grass communities will benefit local watersheds by increasing ecological function in watersheds. Finally, renewable baseload energy generation will help to improve community resiliency with the potential to provide power to critical and emergency services in an extreme event.

I recommend selection of the City of Prineville's grant application for funding. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at robert.brunoe@ctwsbnr.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Brunoe".

Robert A. Brunoe, Secretary Treasure/CEO