



March 16, 2023

Department of Commerce
State of Washington
Olympia, WA

Re: Solar plus Storage for Resilient Communities Competitive Grants

The Trout Lake Community Council (TLCC) is an elected body of 9 residents (volunteers) living within the Trout Lake School District. TLCC is submitting this application for Track 1 of the above referenced competitive grant through the non-profit organization "Community Enrichment of Klickitat County" (CEKC) as they have the capacity to serve as our fiscal agent for the grant. The financial capability of CEKC to operate this as a reimbursable grant will greatly strain, and could significantly affect, their management of other projects they are overseeing throughout Klickitat and Skamania Counties. Therefore, the TLCC is requesting an exemption to the reimbursable grant requirement. All service entities within our community are staffed by volunteers and, as such, there are insufficient funding sources in our unincorporated community for reimbursable services.

Three sites (Trout Lake Fire Hall, Trout Lake School, Camp Jonah) were identified as potential locations for installation of solar and battery storage systems. To maximize efficiency of the feasibility evaluation process it is appropriate to complete the study under one contract and to conduct community meetings for the three sites together in order to determine the most suitable, and preferred, location(s) for solar and battery storage. For these reasons it is suitable for the TLCC to be the coordinator of Track 1. Once Track 1 is completed there will be sufficient information for owners of each of the three buildings to move forward with Track 2 applications, dependent upon economic viability.

Trout Lake meets the definition of a rural community. It is located approximately 23 miles north of the City of White Salmon, Washington and is an unincorporated community of over 700 residents. There are a number of hazards that have caused power outages in the area in the past. Winter storms (snow, ice and wind) frequently interrupt the transmission of electrical power to our community (multiple outages lasting multiple days). The area is also vulnerable to flooding (many areas in Trout Lake are within the 100 year flood plain, the last occurring in December 2015), and wildfire (3 major fires north of Trout Lake in the past 15 years). Installation of solar power and battery storage will greatly improve our community's resiliency and help to meet the critical needs of our community when faced with unforeseen power outages.

Respectfully,

DAINA L. BAMBE
Chair, Trout Lake Community Council