



Daniel Nibouar  
Interim Director

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Clackamas County Board of Commissioners  
Gary Schmidt, County Administrator

FROM: Disaster Management – Daniel Nibouar, Interim Director

RE: Letter of Support to the U.S. Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office for a Portland General Electric (PGE) grant application for distribution grid modernization for reliability and wildfire risk reduction for up to \$100 million.

DATE: March 29, 2023

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**REQUEST:** Disaster Management is requesting the attached Letter of Support be signed by the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners. The deadline for submission is April 4, 2023.

**BACKGROUND:** Portland General Electric (PGE) has requested a letter of support from Clackamas County for their Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program application. The GRIP Program is a federal grant program that aims to enhance grid flexibility and improve the resilience of power systems against growing threats of extreme weather and climate change. Projects funded through this program will help to ensure the reliability of the power sector's infrastructure, so all American communities have access to affordable, reliable, clean electricity. PGE's project is titled "Distribution Grid Modernization for Reliability and Wildfire Risk Reduction" and would allow PGE to invest in the electrical system that supports people and businesses within Clackamas County.

PGE will deploy automation on the grid to help reduce outages and restore service using a new Advanced Distribution Management System, deploy smart sensors to help isolate faulted sections, and do more undergrounding of distribution lines to help prevent wildfires. All of these will be implemented in Clackamas County. The results will mean greater reliability and fewer outages in all of PGE's service territory including Clackamas County.

The maximum grant is \$100 million with a 100% match from PGE, the total project is almost \$200 million.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Nibouar".

Daniel Nibouar  
Interim Director



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING**

2051 KAEN ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

April 4, 2023

U.S. Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office Office of Clean  
Energy Demonstrations

1000 Independence Ave SW Washington, DC 20585

RE: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) - Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) - DE-FOA-  
0002740 Letter of Support - Portland General Electric

To Whom It May Concern:

Clackamas County is pleased to support the application of Portland General Electric's (PGE) "Distribution Grid Modernization for Reliability and Wildfire Risk Reduction" project. PGE's proposal will accelerate the resiliency of the electrical infrastructure within the most populous area of the state, which is critical to mitigate the impacts of climate change and reduce the risk of wildfire within the community.

PGE provides electrical services to a majority of Clackamas County residents and businesses. Upon completion, the project will provide greater reliability and result in fewer outages across the county.

In the last few years, the Clackamas County community has experienced devastating wildfires, a significant snow and ice event that left thousands of Oregonians without power for several days, and multiple record-setting heat waves. These events that used to occur every 50 or 100 years, are occurring at an unprecedented frequency and intensity. As a local government, we are working within the community to prepare for the impact of these events, and ensure services are available to support the needs of the community during these events. A more resilient and reliable electrical grid, that is able to withstand some of the most significant threats to our local communities, is a crucial component to reducing risk, preserving life safety, and minimizing public and private property loss. This grant will allow PGE to invest in the infrastructure that supports the people who live and work within Clackamas County and surrounding communities, and those who are most impacted by extreme weather and wildfire events.

Clackamas County supports this project application and requests your approval of the project. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tootie Smith, Chair

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners