March 10, 2023

UMS Group and Project Partners
RE: U.S. DOE FOA-0002740, Grid Resilience and Innovative Partnerships
Topic area 2 Smart Grid Grant submission: *Advanced Solutions to Mitigate Wildfire Risk*

Letter of Support, Community Engagement & Involvement

Community Energy Project a non-profit organization with offices at 2705 E Burnside St Suite 112, Portland, OR 97214, hereby acknowledge our support for the U.S. DOE submission *Advanced Solutions to Mitigate Wildfire Risk* filed by UMS Group the Prime applicant.

If awarded, we commit relevant staff at our organization to work with this regional effort. In particular our organization agrees to support community engagement where we have relationships and expertise including in the Pacific Northwest and around areas of advanced grid solutions and their benefits and impact with disadvantaged communities. Any of our contributions will be detailed in the finalized project work plan and annual budget agreements.

With our participation, we agree to comply with the requirements of this project and to make the project Prime or other relevant parties aware of any developments for our contributions to the overall effort.

Community Energy Project
Charity Fain, Executive Director
Authorized Signature: Charity Fain

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
1011 Plum Street SE • PO Box 42525 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2525 • 360-725-4000
www.commerce.wa.gov

March 15, 2023

U.S. Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) - FOA-0002740 – Topic Area 2 Submission, Smart Grid Grants

Letter of Support for UMS Group Regional Application - *Advanced Solutions to Mitigate Wildfire Risk*

The Washington State Energy Office supports this regional effort and encourages the U.S. Department of Energy to fund the *Advanced Solutions to Mitigate Wildfire Risk* submission ("Project") submitted by UMS Group ("Applicant") with select regional partners. Communities in our state have seen firsthand the devastating impacts that wildland fires pose and have brought in recent years. This funding opportunity is especially timely and important because of Washington's current focus on community and grid resilience. These additional resources will expand our ability to help to mitigate wildfire risk.

While the lessons learned from each of the participating utilities and communities in this project will provide direct benefits, Washington, including for Avista and Puget Sound Energy, has a history of sharing the learning from our innovation the achievements from the partnership through the state's Clean Energy Fund. Since 2013, the Fund has help additional grid operators and communities across our state and the wider region integrate intermittent renewables and make resilience investments. This new effort would assist in reducing the risk of wildland fires impacting energy infrastructure and will help to show how making data-driven decisions and leveraging available advanced technology can play an important role in addressing the impact of wildfires.

This partnership with UMS Group, Slalom Consulting, Fire Adapted Communities, Grid Forward, and other industry and community partners is well constructed. If funded, we look forward to tracking the developments with this project and will lend support where we are able to coordinate with additional efforts that may be related. Thank you for your consideration of this timely submission.

Michael Furze
Assistant Director, Energy Division
Washington State Dept. of Commerce

Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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March 15, 2023

U.S. Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20585
RE: Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) - FOA-0002740 – Topic Area 2 Submission, Smart Grid Grants

Letter of Support for UMS Group Regional Application - *Advanced Solutions to Mitigate Wildfire Risk*

The Oregon Department of Energy is submitting this letter of support to encourage the U.S. Department of Energy to fund the *Advanced Solutions to Mitigate Wildfire Risk* submission.

The mission of the Oregon Department of Energy is to help Oregonians make informed decisions and maintain a resilient and affordable energy system. We advance solutions to shape an equitable clean energy transition, protect the environment and public health, and responsibly balance energy needs and impacts for current and future generations. It is especially timely and important to provide resources that help to mitigate wildfire risk. Communities in our state have seen firsthand the devastating effects that wildland fires have on our landscape and residents.

While the lessons learned from each of the participating utilities and communities in this project will provide direct benefits, including for Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) here in Oregon, the achievements from the partnership will also help other electric utilities and communities across Oregon and the wider region. This regional effort would assist in reducing the risk of wildland fires damaging energy infrastructure and will help to show how making data-driven decisions and leveraging available advanced technology can play an important role in addressing the impact of wildfires.

This partnership with UMS Group, Slalom Consulting, Fire Adapted Communities, Grid Forward, Eugene Water and Electric Board, and other industry and community partners is well designed. If funded, we look forward to tracking the developments with this project and participating in information sharing. We will lend support through our roles as a clearinghouse of energy data and information, in providing energy education and analysis to policy makers, and administering energy programs in the state.

Thank you for your consideration of this timely submission.

Janine Benner
Director, Oregon Department of Energy

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 15, 2023

Secretary Jennifer Granholm
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20585

RE: GRIP Smart Grid Grant (FOA -0002740)

Dear Secretary Granholm:

We write in strong support of the Advanced Solutions to Mitigate Wildfire Risk project which we believe can help protect the growing number of communities facing wildfire threats in the western United States and is particularly well aligned with the objectives of the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) program.

Western States have recently experienced an alarming increase in the devastating impacts that wildland fires can have on the citizens and communities we represent. Besides threatening lives and causing billions of dollars of property damage, increasing frequent and intense wildfires have also disrupted electric power delivery by damaging utility infrastructure and necessitated public safety power shutoff events to reduce the risk of ignition by utility assets. Given the devastating and cascading impacts of losing critical electricity supplies, particularly in an emergency situation, we urge you to support projects like this one that can accelerate the demonstration and deployment of advanced technological solutions that can prevent and mitigate the risks facing fire prone communities.

The Advanced Solutions to Mitigate Wildfire Risk project includes a wide coalition of industry and community stakeholders, including grid experts at our National Laboratories. The project's focus on sharing the lessons learned across a wide range of key stakeholders and leveraging solutions that are commercially available but seeing friction in wider deployment will further leverage federal funding and accelerate the adoption of these domestically sourced technologies. We also appreciate the project's inclusion of smaller utilities serving rural areas that are particularly under resourced and vulnerable to wildland fires.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the Advanced Solutions to Mitigate Wildfire Risk project proposal. We are incredibly enthusiastic about its anticipated benefits and the protections these technological advancements could bring to Western communities facing increasing wildfire threats.

Sincerely,

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

James E. Risch
United States Senator