

**Confederated Tribes of the
Umatilla Indian Reservation**

Board of Trustees



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June 27, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Oregon Public Utility Commission
Attn: JP Batmale
201 High Street SE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: UM 1020 – CTUIR comments

To the Commissioners and Staff of the Public Utility Commission,

The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) write to urge the PUC to continue to allow utility voluntary renewable energy funds and public purpose charge funds to be leveraged together for renewable energy projects.

In the past, CTUIR has leveraged Pacific Power's Blue Sky program with incentives from the Energy Trust of Oregon to invest in a phased renewable energy initiative at Tamástlikt Cultural Institute on our Reservation. Phase 1 of the initiative was a 50kW wind turbine installed in 2012 and Phase 2 was the installation of 123kW solar project. We are now looking to complete Phase 3 with another 123kW solar installation at Tamástlikt. We have applied for funding through Pacific Power's Blue Sky Program, but we do not understand why concerns have been expressed about leveraging voluntary funds with Energy Trust incentives. The combination of the two sources was what made our first solar project possible.

Our renewable energy initiative has a profound benefit to our community. Tamástlikt Cultural Institute is more than just a museum, it celebrates the traditions of Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla Tribes and our more than 10,000-year history on this landscape. It provides a space for tribal members and visitors to experience the storied past, rich present and bright future of our tribes through educational exhibits, which include our renewable energy projects. In highly visible locations, these projects demonstrate the Tribe's commitment to renewable energy and concern for human impacts on the environment. We use the projects in environmental education tours throughout the year and we have seen the financial benefit of savings in electrical usage.

Like most government and nonprofit entities, we have little use for tax credits for renewable energy. Leveraging of utility voluntary funds and public purpose charge funds makes it feasible for renewable energy projects to benefit communities like ours across the state.

Sincerely,

for Gary Burke
Chairman
CTUIR Board of Trustees