

United States Department of Agriculture/US Forest Service
Attention: Mr. Brad Simpkins, Grantor
201 14th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC 20024

RE: Funding Opportunity Number USDA-FS-2024-CWDG-CWSF/Mason PUD 1

Dear Mr. Simpkins:

I am a resident of Jefferson County in Washington State and a customer of Mason County PUD No. 1. I would like to offer my support of the PUD's proposed comprehensive vegetation management (VM) project to clear vegetation fuels within their easements in Brinnon.

Living along the rainforest on the Hood Canal, we have beautiful terrain, but the trees and vegetation wreak havoc on our power lines. With increasingly hot and dry summers, we are also experiencing higher fire danger than our region has ever seen. The PUD's VM proposal is the most timely and critical means to mitigate our wildfire risk and increase the reliability of our electric service.

With just 5,600 electric customers, the PUD only has the financial means to address small portions of rights-of-way clearing annually, so I applaud the PUD's intention to pursue federal funds for this highly needed wildfire preventative work. I also understand the PUD is only able to engage in this large scale mitigation of wildfire risk if they receive funding from the USDA/FS via the Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program. I support their plan for fuel stock removal and ask the USDA/FS to fund the PUD's grant application so that this critical clear-cut can occur before a major wildfire jeopardizes our lives, property and our power grid.

Sincerely,