



May 16, 2017

The Honorable Kate Brown
Governor of the State of Oregon
State Capitol, Room 160
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Governor Brown,

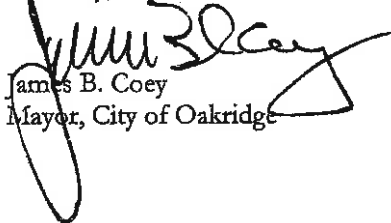
The purpose of this letter is to request your designation of Oakridge Woodsmoke Mitigation as an Oregon Solutions project.

Local climate and topography make the area around Oakridge, Oregon prone to wintertime temperature inversions, low wind speeds and poor atmospheric dispersion which translates into poor air quality during the winter months when many residents use woodstoves as their primary source of heat. Poor air quality disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable in the community including low-income residents, children and seniors. Based on the last three years of air quality sampling results ending in 2016, EPA recently placed Oakridge into the compliance category. Though Oakridge is in compliance which is a huge milestone, we are still in nonattainment for PM 2.5 particulate matter. However, the clock has restarted on assessing attainment status and if it is not met again in the future—it would limit business expansion and economic growth opportunities as well as disqualify Oakridge from receiving federal funds.

The City of Oakridge and the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency have met with Oregon Solutions staff around the urgency of improving air quality through a number of partner measures to ensure improvements into the future. A local work group has developed a multilevel strategy to improve air quality conditions through education, enforcement and woodstove changeouts and weatherization. The Oregon Solutions process would help bolster local resources by developing a roadmap for implementation to meet the PM 2.5 standards through collaboration with other government, business and non-profit groups to identify and agree upon voluntary measures to improve air quality in Oakridge. An assessment with potential participants in the process indicate a strong interest in applying local and regional capacity to provide cleaner energy options to Oakridge community members.

We believe that this collaborative and proactive effort could serve as a model for other communities in our state especially as it relates to the State's Wood Smoke Work Group. Your support, demonstrated by this designation, would be especially helpful in raising awareness and bringing diverse partners to the table to achieve results.

Sincerely,


James B. Coey
Mayor, City of Oakridge



Merlyn Hough, Director
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency