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April 16, 2009

Craig Smith, Chairman of the Board
Claire Fulenwider, Executive Director
Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
529 SW Third Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Craig and Claire,

I am pleased to provide this letter indicating Energy Trust staff support for the final strategic plan and business plan developed by the NW Energy Efficiency Alliance. I regret that my schedule prohibited me from joining you at your upcoming April board meeting. Had I been able to attend, I would personally have voiced my support through affirmative votes to adopt both documents to guide the organization in the coming 5 years.

As a strategic planning committee member, I've had the opportunity to participate in the development of the strategic plan. It is my pleasure to serve on this committee working with my board colleagues and a highly competent staff. I appreciate also having engaged in substantive discussions of the draft plan directly with key stakeholders. The final document reflects feedback from many different constituents and I believe accurately reflects and addresses their perspectives.

The 5 strategic goals and key strategies are well balanced and the corresponding effort anticipated for them well distributed. Preserved at the heart of NEEA's activities is market transformation and adoption. Energy Trust supports this continued emphasis as the primary benefit delivered by the Alliance on behalf of the region. Appropriately, strategic goals also encompass ways to increase emerging technologies. This balance between short and longer-term technology and savings acquisition appears appropriate, helping us all be assured that a pipeline for future projects will be kept full.

May I reiterate our interest in exploring the potential to secure interest and eventual funding of gas utilities in NEEA's mission and scope. Though aware of the sensitivities around this subject, we can speak to our positive experience being able to provide comprehensive services to customers across both fuels. We encourage the board to keep this pathway open for full consideration.

At the May 6, 2009, meeting of the Energy Trust board of directors, Claire will present a summary of the strategic and business plans and invite feedback. This meeting is also an important forum for Claire to introduce the funding proposal for the coming 5 years. It will be important to entertain questions from our board members in anticipation of a decision I will be taking forward to them at their July 2009 meeting. As always, whatever contractual commitment is made will be revisited during the board's December action on our annual budget for the coming calendar year.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge and thank NEEA's staff, in particular Karen and Jeff, who were diligent in hearing and incorporating extensive comments expressed by the board and numerous stakeholders as these two planning documents were completed. The entire NEEA board should feel proud of the inclusive approach used to develop these planning tools to the point where there is such extensive awareness and support for them.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and I wish you a good board meeting.

Best,

Margie Harris
Executive Director