

August 25, 2023

Environmental Protection Agency
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W. Washington DC, 20460



RE: Support for BEF's Solar for All Application for Wyoming

Dear EPA Administrators,

We are writing on behalf of Wyoming Outdoor Council to express our organization's support for the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) Solar for All application to serve the state of Wyoming and Wind River Reservation.

As Wyoming's oldest independent conservation organization with over 5,700 members and supporters, as well as significant policy experience working to advance distributed renewables, we are excited to support a Solar for All grant application that would deliver meaningful economic, environmental, and social benefits to communities across Wyoming and the Wind River Reservation.

We are particularly supportive of this application because of BEF's track record of partnering with diverse community members to deliver the economic and environmental benefits of renewable energy, with a specific focus on low-income household benefits. We believe that BEF's inclusive approach to developing this application and unique nonprofit experience and capabilities will be essential to the success of this initiative and we would be excited to assist BEF with the following:

- **Identifying and engaging with potential residential customers.** With our history of statewide advocacy for rooftop solar and distributed energy, we are deeply connected with installers, local rooftop solar advocates, tribal partners on the Wind River Reservation, and community groups and leaders around Wyoming. We envision leveraging these existing relationships and networks to help promote this opportunity and ensure that it is successful.
- **Ensuring an inclusive and participatory process for engaging members of communities served in program development and implementation.** We would commit to serving on an Advisory Committee and helping to review and draft strategies for education, public engagement, and program implementation of Solar for All in Wyoming.

Our work and advocacy on rooftop solar in Wyoming has taught us that communities value the self-reliance, self-determination, and low environmental impact associated with distributed renewables. However, the low cost of electricity in Wyoming has historically made it difficult for many residents to justify investing in solar. We believe that the Solar for All program has the potential to empower disadvantaged communities who would otherwise not participate in rooftop solar, and help them benefit from reduced household energy bills, new jobs in the trades, and access to locally produced renewable energy.

We appreciate BEF's leadership on this important initiative and support this application. We are also impressed by the way that BEF has engaged tribal communities around the mountain west and is working to ensure that their needs and perspectives are fully integrated into the program's development and implementation. It is critical to recognize the unique challenges and opportunities faced by these communities and we are dedicated to working collaboratively with BEF to include both Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone Tribes on the Wind River Reservation.

If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact us our contacts below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Burrows".

John Burrows
Director of Energy and Climate Policy
Wyoming Outdoor Council
johnb@wyomingoutdoorcouncil.org

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Big Wind Carpenter".

Big Wind Carpenter
Tribal Engagement Coordinator
Wyoming Outdoor Council
bigwind@wyomingoutdoorcouncil.org