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March 5, 2024

The Plumas County Board of Supervisors is in support of the proposal put forth by the Plumas County Fire Safe Council for the establishment of a Firewood and BioGeneration Facility. This initiative represents a pivotal step towards addressing several pressing issues in our county, including biomass/green waste disposal, air quality improvement, and wildfire risk mitigation.

The 2015 designation of the Greater Portola Area as a federal PM_{2.5} nonattainment area underscores the urgency of our situation. The revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards set forth by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on February 7, 2024, have further accentuated the need for proactive measures to combat fine particle pollution (PM_{2.5}). The entirety of Plumas County may begin classification as an area not meeting attainment standards by the beginning 2026, similar to the current regulations that cover the City of Portola. The current air quality conditions in Portola are deeply concerning, with the burning of unseasoned wood emerging as a significant contributor to PM_{2.5} emission exceedances. The lack of proper firewood infrastructure in our county has led wood-stove owners to resort to the use of unseasoned wood, exacerbating the problem.

The proposed Firewood and BioGeneration Facility by the Plumas County Fire Safe Council offers a multifaceted solution to these challenges. By producing kiln-dried firewood and supplying stock to the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District's subsidized firewood program, the facility aims to curtail the use of unseasoned wood and thereby reduce harmful emissions. Additionally, the facility will fulfill a critical need for biomass/green waste disposal services, further minimizing environmental impact.

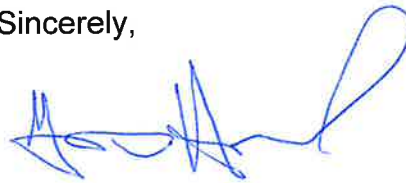
Beyond its environmental benefits, the proposed facility holds promise for generating electricity and producing Biochar—a carbon sequestering substance with applications in agriculture and soil remediation. This dual-purpose approach highlights the project's potential to contribute positively to both environmental sustainability and community welfare.

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council has demonstrated its competence and commitment to serving at-risk communities through its existing programs. We believe that the establishment of

the proposed facility will greatly enhance the council's capacity to fulfill its mission to reduce losses from wildfire in Plumas County.

The Plumas County Board of Supervisors extends its full support to the Plumas County Fire Safe Council Firewood and BioGeneration Facility. We view this initiative as pivotal in advancing our collective efforts towards a safer, healthier, and more sustainable future for the residents of Plumas County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hagwood', with a large loop at the end.

Greg Hagwood
Chair, Plumas County Board of Supervisors