

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 15, 2023

Secretary Jennifer Granholm  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington DC 20585

**RE: GRIP Smart Grid Grant (FOA -0002740)**

Dear Secretary Granholm:

We write in strong support of the Advanced Solutions to Mitigate Wildfire Risk project which we believe can help protect the growing number of communities facing wildfire threats in the western United States and is particularly well aligned with the objectives of the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) program.

Western States have recently experienced an alarming increase in the devastating impacts that wildland fires can have on the citizens and communities we represent. Besides threatening lives and causing billions of dollars of property damage, increasing frequent and intense wildfires have also disrupted electric power delivery by damaging utility infrastructure and necessitated public safety power shutoff events to reduce the risk of ignition by utility assets. Given the devastating and cascading impacts of losing critical electricity supplies, particularly in an emergency situation, we urge you to support projects like this one that can accelerate the demonstration and deployment of advanced technological solutions that can prevent and mitigate the risks facing fire prone communities.

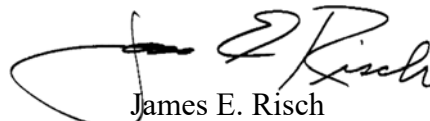
The Advanced Solutions to Mitigate Wildfire Risk project includes a wide coalition of industry and community stakeholders, including grid experts at our National Laboratories. The project's focus on sharing the lessons learned across a wide range of key stakeholders and leveraging solutions that are commercially available but seeing friction in wider deployment will further leverage federal funding and accelerate the adoption of these domestically sourced technologies. We also appreciate the project's inclusion of smaller utilities serving rural areas that are particularly under resourced and vulnerable to wildland fires.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the Advanced Solutions to Mitigate Wildfire Risk project proposal. We are incredibly enthusiastic about its anticipated benefits and the protections these technological advancements could bring to Western communities facing increasing wildfire threats.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



James E. Risch  
United States Senator