

September 10, 2021

UTC Commissioners: David W. Danner, Jay Balasbas, Anne Rendahl

RE: The Commission's examination of intervenor funding provisions for regulatory proceedings,
Docket U-210595

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the chance to comment on the implementation of intervenor funding, as provided in Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5295. At Spark Northwest, we work with communities to plan and build clean energy projects that shift power and wealth to marginalized communities. We support policies that expand participation in the energy regulatory arena, to include voices of those most impacted by regulatory decisions. Intervenor funding is a precious resource for expanding the conversation.

While there are a number of organizations that you might deem eligible for funding, we support creating a carve out specifically for Tribes. Of all the human communities in the Pacific Northwest, indigenous people have paid the highest price for our current hydropower system. From loss of traditional food sources to flooding of villages and sacred waterfalls, the hydropower system has robbed Tribes of their livelihoods and culture. Tribes also have unique and valuable perspectives to offer energy system planners about the value of energy sovereignty, a community approach to sharing resources, and many other things.

As we make decisions about the future of our electric grid, Tribes need a place at the table and the funding to compensate them for their time. We hope it will not only expand the conversation, but change the language with which we speak about our shared future.

Sincerely,



Linda Irvine