Place on CLHO letterhead

DATE

Julie Early Sifuentes

Principal Investigator/Program Manager

Environmental Health Assessment Program
Center for Prevention and Health Promotion
Oregon Health Authority – Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon St., Suite 640
Portland, OR 97232

RE: Support for APPLETREE Funding TS20-2001

Dear Ms. Sifuentes,

On behalf of the Oregon Conference of Local Health Officials (CLHO), I am writing in support of the application from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for funding through ATSDR’s Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) cooperative agreement. Local and state collaboration on environmental public health issues is critical to protect and improve community well-being by preventing disease, illness, and injury and impacting social, economic, and environmental factors fundamental to health.

Since 2001, ATSDR funding has allowed OHA’s Environmental Health Assessment Program (EHAP) to support local communities in Oregon in reducing health risks associated with hazardous waste sites and industrial facility emissions. EHAP’s technical assistance has been instrumental in assessing and redeveloping Brownfield sites across the state. Local health departments have worked with EHAP and other partners to ensure that these sites are redeveloped in a way that promotes community health and addresses local health priorities.

In addition to continuing core APPLETREE activities, CLHO supports EHAP’s proposed Brownfields mini-grant program. CLHO’s Environmental Health Committee (CLHO-EH) will closely collaborate with EHAP to develop the program by advising on fundamental programmatic elements, including the method of mini-grant selection, period of performance, award amount, scope of work, and methods of accountability. This consultation will continue throughout the duration of the Brownfields mini-grant program, with EHAP reporting evaluation outcomes to CHLO-EH and soliciting input on how to iteratively improve the program.

We anticipate that the mini-grant program will support activities that increase health equity, knowledge, and capacity for communities to identify, reduce, and prevent health effects from exposures to hazardous substances at Brownfields sites across Oregon. Brownfields redevelopment efforts can ultimately lead to improved and sustained community health.

In order to protect our communities’ health, we strongly support the Oregon Environmental Health Assessment Program’s APPLETREE application and look forward to continuing our collaboration into the future.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Warren

Chair, Conference of Local Health Officials