



September 3, 2009

Wendy Koelfgen, Energy Affairs Coordinator
c/o Roxanne Devries-Robinson
Teton County/Town of Jackson

Dear Roxanne,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Energy Sustainability Project proposal for Jackson and Teton County. We sincerely applaud all of your efforts in turning this concept into a reality, and fully support the program. Because of the interconnectedness of human behaviors and the health of our local, regional and global ecosystems, we believe that measures such as those proposed in the Energy Sustainability Project draft are positive steps towards protecting wildlife, planning responsibly and reducing our overall human footprint here in Teton County.

The town and county have engaged in several pilot programs that have clearly demonstrated the high payback of increased energy efficiency. These, and other admirable volunteer programs, will not be able to realize the full potential that energy efficiency has for our region. The 10x10 program is wonderful, but 10% reduction in the energy use by government translates to 1% reduction in countywide energy use. Jackson will not meet the goal of the Mayors' Climate Change agreement. Countywide, energy use is still growing. Teton County cannot reduce its energy use without a comprehensive program that treats energy efficiency like other infrastructure, using the same financial horizons and public obligations to participate that we use for other infrastructure, such as roads, sewers, water, and other services.

It is time for us to engage in a comprehensive improvement in the energy use infrastructure of our homes, businesses, public works and vehicles. This effort could create over one hundred jobs, keep millions of energy dollars from leaving the valley's economy each year, prevent thousands of tons of pollution, improve community health, and, perhaps most importantly, set a powerful example of leadership for the 3 million visitors who pass through Jackson each year. We have an opportunity to be a pioneer city by setting an innovative example for America. Given the awareness, financial capability and strong leadership that have provided such clear leadership examples on the promise of energy efficiency, we have a moral and fiduciary obligation to do so.

The draft would benefit from some clarification regarding the timeline and the funding sources for this project. How long will it realistically take to secure initial capital investments? Is there the political will to enact the tenets of this policy immediately? Who has the authority to mandate energy efficiency upgrades, and when will regulations be enacted to reflect this?

In addition, in the description of Phase 1 under *Quality of Life*, it is important to recognize that hunters as well as land owners, recreationists, and outdoor enthusiasts of all types value healthy habitat and animal populations; in fact, many in our community have indicated that wildlife and natural resources are critical components of their desire to live here. Likewise, it is important to

add clean air and water to this list, particularly in the context of reduced emissions (both building and transportation related) and greener living.

As is stated in the summary section, it is critical to continue to change and refine the strategies as time goes on and certain approaches emerge as more or less effective for this community. We agree that this will maximize the effectiveness of the program. Most importantly, it is time to take comprehensive and community-wide action. On October 23-24, Teton County will host the eighth significant energy conference in the valley in just over two years. We know what needs to be done, and the benefits of doing it. It is time for action.

Thank you again for all of your hard work on this, helping to bring Jackson to the forefront of energy efficiency and environmental awareness, stewardship and sustainability. We would be happy to be involved in this as it moves forward. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Hansen
Executive Director

Becky Tillson
Outreach, Community Planning