

October 4, 2022

Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Re: Letter of Support for Yampa Valley Housing Authority Application: DE-FOA-0002632

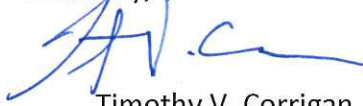
To the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy,

The Routt County Board of County Commissioners would like to express our support for Yampa Valley Housing Authority's application entitled "Supporting Affordability, Resilience, and Clean Energy Jobs through Geothermal Heating and Cooling in Northwest Colorado." In an effort to provide affordable housing solutions in Routt County, Yampa Valley Housing Authority (YVHA) has assembled a strong coalition comprised of local, regional, and national expertise. Together, these individuals are in the process of designing a community-scale geothermal system to be included in the upcoming Brown Ranch development. Implementing this system will be a key element in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of residents in that area.

In 2021, the Routt County Climate Action Plan (CAP) was ratified. Successful implementation of the strategies, tactics, and actions established in the CAP will support a reduction in community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 35% by 2030 and by 74% by 2050. These estimates are based on the county's baseline emissions in 2018, which showed that stationary energy used in residential buildings, commercial buildings, and industrial facilities generated 54% of Routt County's greenhouse gas emissions. The community-scale geothermal system proposed by YVHA and its coalition would increase energy efficiency in the housing units at Brown Ranch, as well as support the transition to carbon-reducing development practices.

As communities transition to energy systems that support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, organizations must come forward and act as role models for achieving these goals. The inclusion of a geothermal system at Brown Ranch would allow YVHA to demonstrate what is possible for other developing communities. There would also be numerous additional benefits for community members including reduced energy bills, improved air quality, support for local and regional jobs, and increased health and well-being of future residents. The Routt County Commissioners strongly support the efforts of YVHA and its coalition members. We appreciate your consideration of YVHA's application.

Sincerely,



Timothy V. Corrigan
District I



Tim Redmond
District II



M. Elizabeth Melton
District III