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April 14, 2026

Jeff High
Wood Innovations Specialist
USDA Forest Service, Washington Office

Re: Letter of Support for Honey Lake Power's Proposal to the USFS Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance Program

Dear Mr. High,

I am writing to express my support for Honey Lake Power's proposal to the 2026 US Forest Service Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance (WPIA) Grant Funding Opportunity. Honey Lake Power (HLP) is a biomass-to-energy facility in Wendel, Lassen County, and plays a critical role in supporting forest management and forest health activities on the Lassen National Forest (LNF). HLP utilizes approximately 170,000 bone dry tons of biomass per year, with over 80% of that volume coming from ecosystem restoration and sustainable forest management activities on both USFS and privately owned land throughout our region.

HLP is able to use woody material that constitutes excess hazardous fuels in the forest, and utilization of this material helps to reduce fuel loading while also avoiding simply piling it and burning it in place. The LNF and local residents benefit from this utilization of biomass as it facilitates treatments to improve sustainability of our forests, generate electricity, and improve air quality through avoided emissions associated with biomass pile burning or wildfires.

LNF has had a strong working partnership with HLP since the plant's inception. LNF is currently planning a number of landscape-scale forest restoration and hazardous fuels reduction projects that will involve large biomass removal components, and HLP will serve as a crucial outlet for this material. Without HLP and this close market for biomass, many of these projects will struggle to cost effectively move forward.

HLP's proposed project with WPIA funding will support various upgrades at its facility to improve operational efficiencies and plant reliability, helping ensure the facility's long-term survival so that it can continue supporting important forest health and wildfire prevention activities in our region, as well as providing jobs and stimulating the local economy.

I urge you to support HLP's proposal to the WPIA program so that they can continue to offer a much-needed outlet for byproducts of forest restoration activities in Northern California. Simply put, if HLP ever ceased to operate, our forest and local forest products economy would suffer immensely.

Sincerely,

Gary Bridges, Chairman
Lassen County Board of Supervisors