



April 8, 2016

Dr. Richard Christensen
Professor of Engineering
University of Idaho—Idaho Falls
1776 Science Center Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

Re: Support for proposal to Avista on Energy Efficiency at Food Processing Plants

Dear Professor Christensen:

I am writing to support your proposal to Avista entitled "*Energy Efficiency Planning at Avista*". We are pleased to be a part of this effort because Energy Efficiency is a major focus for management of plants by members of the Northwest Food Processing Association (NWFPA). NWFPA members are committed to energy efficiency as key to sustainable business practices as well as a means to remain competitive. NWFPA was the first industry group in the nation to adopt an industry-wide energy intensity reduction goal. We are well on our way to achieving our goal to reduce energy intensity by 25% in 10 years and planning to reduce this even farther by use of transformative energy efficiency practices. Recently, NWFPA members identified water conservation and efficiency as top priorities and we have begun programs in these areas as well. We recognize the interplay between energy and water.

The proposal being submitted by the University of Idaho provides an approach for selecting "game changing" technologies that might be applicable to saving significant amounts of energy and water at food processing plants. We will work with the group of researchers involved to select a representative food processing plant within the Avista gas and electric territory for analyzing opportunities to use transformative technologies. An attractive feature of your proposal is the possibility that a template can be developed for use at other member facilities to evaluate deployment of these advancing technologies.

Established in 1914, Northwest Food Processors Association (NWFPA) represents the Pacific Northwest food processing industry (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) in a variety of food processing sectors: fruits, vegetables, seafood, dairy, poultry, bakeries, specialty, juices and more. NWFPA's membership base includes national companies with operations or headquarters in the Pacific Northwest, regional companies and locally run family businesses. NWFPA is one of the nation's largest food processing trade associations, with current membership of more than 150 food processing companies (with over 250 manufacturing plants) and more than 350 supplier members. The food processing industry has been a cornerstone of the Northwest regional economy for over 100 years. It is the third largest manufacturing sector and employs directly and indirectly more than 280,000 people, has a regional impact of \$42.5 billion and a payroll of \$2.4 billion. It is one of the major users of energy in the Northwest.

As the Vice President of Energy, Environmental & Sustainability of the Northwest Food Processors Association, I am in a position to encourage our members to work with your team in this worthwhile endeavor and help promote continuation of NWFPFA as a model for the rest of the US processing community in energy density savings. Further, I (or my designate) will be become engaged in all aspects of planning, implementation and analysis of project results.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Barrow".

Pamela Barrow
Vice President of Energy, Environmental & Sustainability