



November 15, 2024

Pat Sullivan, Director  
Office of Financial Management  
PO Box 43113  
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: **Budget Reductions for Fiscal Year 2025 and 2025-27 Biennium**

Dear Director Sullivan:

On behalf of the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC), I am responding to the November 8, 2024, letter regarding **Budget Reductions for Fiscal Year 2025 and 2025-27 Biennium**. In preparing our response to identify budgetary reductions and efficiencies, the UTC analyzed its existing statutory workload and programs as directed and identified potential savings in our Goods and Services of **\$250,000 in Fiscal Year 2025** and **\$1,933,380 in the 2025-27 Biennium**.

In considering our budget, we assessed resource needs for the various divisions and work at the Commission. During that process we reviewed the statutory required workload along with areas of efficiency that could be targeted. Some of the more complex statutory requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Full docket of utility rate proceedings;
- Proceedings to review utility clean energy implementation plans;
- Examinations of costs related to wildfire planning;
- Energy markets, storage, and double counting;
- Inspections and investigations for motor carriers, pipeline operators and railroads; and
- Leadership role in regional discussions regarding transmission planning, resource adequacy, and developing regional electricity markets

These critical functions are all essential for the state, resource intensive and offer little opportunity for reductions. As you are aware, the UTC is not a general fund agency and receives a majority of its funding (specifically the PSRA/Fund 111) from regulatory fees paid by the UTC-regulated companies in May each fiscal year, though it also receives several small grants that are minor relative to its total budget. Because of this and the need to ensure we have enough qualified staff to perform this critical work, I believe the Commission should not be included in any further budget reductions focused on the general fund.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Regards,

Jason

**Jason Lewis**

Legislative Program Director & Tribal Liaison

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**Utilities and Transportation Commission**

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