



April 24, 2019

Attn: Eric Evans, Malheur County Planning Director
RE: Eco-Site #2019-02-006 and #2019-03-012

Snake River Economic Development Alliance (SREDA) is a non-profit, public-private regional partnership that was formed because of the economic adversities we face here in Malheur County and the Western Treasure Valley. Throughout the years, we have had:

- High unemployment;
- High underemployment – many people work 2 jobs to make a living;
- People leaving their homes to find work or commuting long distances;
- Businesses closing and not reopening;
- Traditionally underrepresented and minority communities;
- Shrinking populations in our rural towns; and
- Malheur County has been ranked one of the highest Counties in the State of Oregon for poverty.

The need for more ‘living wage’ jobs and new investment into our communities is crucial. Our organization focuses on helping existing companies expand and grow as well as recruiting new companies into our area. We are also very concerned about the safety and health of those living in remote areas of the region.

Malheur County covers a vast amount of land which most of it is managed by the federal government. Providing access to internet and cell phone service in remote frontier areas is extremely challenging. For the safety and well-being of those living in and traveling through the county, the Eco-Site project will greatly benefit the county. There is also an economic benefit to the county, but it is secondary to the critical safety benefit.

We strongly support this project and ask that you move efficiently forward with the local planning and zoning process.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kit Kamo

Kit Kamo
Executive Director