BEFORE THE

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

UM 2389

In the Matter of PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON, Justice Funding Precertification Application and Budget.	NOTICE TO REQUEST HB 2475 INTERVENOR FUNDING PRE-CERTIFICATION OF THE KIJANI COLLECTIVE

SUBJECT: Pre-certification application for 2027

The Kijani Collective hereby submits its Notice to Request HB 2475 Intervenor Funding Pre-Certification for $51,000. Kijani submits this application under Section 5.2 of the Environmental Justice Communities Funding Agreement effective January 1, 2026 (Order No. 25-409) and OAR 860-001-0850, by the November 17, 2026 deadline.

Kijani is a first-time applicant. It asks the Commission to find that it is an Eligible Recipient under OAR 860-001-0840 and to pre-certify it for calendar year 2027.

A. Why Kijani meets the eligibility criteria set forth in OAR 860-001-0840:

OAR 860-001-0840 notes that nonprofits must meet the following criteria:

(1) An organization meeting the following criteria may be certified by the Commission to be eligible to receive Justice Funding Grants:

(a) The organization represents the interests of low-income residential customers or Environmental Justice Communities, and participation in proceedings will be primarily directed at public utility issues affecting those interests, including but not limited to, interests in utility rates and terms and conditions of service, interests in the cost of access and impact from the delivery of services, interest in utility programs, and interest in utility resource planning;

(b) The organization identifies the specific Environmental Justice Community or low-income customers it represents and demonstrates that it is able to effectively represent them;

(c) The organization demonstrates that it is able to effectively represent or develop advocacy positions benefitting or informed by the Environmental Justice Community or low-income customers, in the service area of each Participating Public Utility for which funding is sought and demonstrates how it will identify the issues or advocacy positions that are important to those represented;

(d) When applicable, the organization has demonstrated in past Commission matters its ability to substantively contribute to the record on behalf of such interests; and

(e) In contested case proceedings, the organization demonstrates that its request for funding will not unduly delay the schedule of the proceeding.

Who we are: The Kijani Collective is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2024 and based in Portland, Oregon. The Kijani Collective is a Black-led non-profit formed to address systemic barriers to Black engagement in the climate sector. Our mission is to leverage relational partnerships and culturally specific learning programs to equip Black advocates and entrepreneurs to lead in climate justice through advocacy, resilience-building, and innovative climate solutions.

Who we represent: Kijani represents residents of the Black diaspora, both homeowners and renters, in Portland metro neighborhoods. These are environmental justice communities as defined in the Agreement: Communities of color, communities experiencing lower incomes, and others traditionally underrepresented in public processes. Our community members are residential customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power and NW Natural.

The Portland metro area is home to about 115,600 people who identify as Black alone or in combination with another race, 4.6 percent of the region's population in the 2020 Census. North and Northeast Portland still hold the city's highest concentration of Black residents, at nearly 11 percent, but displacement has moved many families to East Portland, Gresham and parts of Washington County. Most Black households in the region rent. The Black homeownership rate in the Portland metro area is about 39 percent, compared with 64 percent for white households, and about 29 percent within the City of Portland. In Multnomah County, 35 percent of Black residents live in poverty, compared with 14 percent of white residents.

These conditions show up in utility bills. Nationally, households in majority-Black census tracts spend an average of 5.1 percent of their income on energy, compared with 3.2 percent for the average household, and the gap is stable even when incomes are comparable. Older, less efficient housing and the split incentive facing renters, who cannot make efficiency upgrades themselves, are contributing factors. Kijani's community includes Black American families with generations of history in Oregon as well as African, Caribbean, and Afro-Latine immigrant families, some of whom speak languages other than English at home. Kijani provides interpretation when needed.

How we represent them effectively: Kijani represents its community with environmental and community data collected through community science and participatory research processes. Our Climate Readiness Study surveyed more than 1,000 Black community members about their readiness for, and needs during, climate emergencies such as heat waves, wildfire smoke and power outages. Our Innovation Pathways Study examines the barriers and supports Black innovators and entrepreneurs encounter in the climate economy. Kijani's working members include university and private industry researchers experienced in collecting environmental and public health data.

Kijani pairs these findings with publicly available data to inform our policy advocacy training, to identify upcoming regulatory decisions that touch the issues community members raise, and to guide on-the-ground initiatives such as its resilience hub network. Graduates of Kijani's policy advocacy program go

on to advocate alongside Kijani's staff and members. Essentially, we prepare community members to speak for themselves while we support them while they do.

Strategy to identify the issues that matter: Since its inception, Kijani has operated based on community data. The organization was formed after two years of focus groups with Black community members, where we asked questions about their lived experiences related to climate justice to inform the policy advocacy program and identify the focus areas for accompanying initiatives supported by the advocacy. We intend to continue identifying priorities for advocacy and action using informed action cycles where we use our own and publicly available environmental and community data to measure progress, understand challenges, and identify opportunities for advancing climate resilience.

Utility's service areas: Kijani is building its resilience hub network in Black-owned and Black-serving spaces, such as churches and community centers, in the neighborhoods where its community lives. Those neighborhoods are located within the three service areas.

Pacific Power: Pacific Power serves most of Northeast Portland from the Willamette River to NE 122nd Avenue, along with parts of North Portland and downtown. This includes the historic Albina neighborhoods, which still have the city's highest concentration of Black residents and many of the Black-owned churches, businesses and community spaces Kijani is assessing as resilience hub sites.

Portland General Electric: PGE serves Southeast and Southwest Portland, much of North Portland, East Multnomah County from NE 122nd Avenue east, including Gresham, and Washington County cities including Beaverton. Many Black families displaced from inner North and Northeast Portland now live in these areas, and Kijani's community surveys and hub site research reach residents and potential hub sites there.

NW Natural: NW Natural provides gas service across the Portland metro area, in both electric utilities' territories. Kijani community members who heat their homes with natural gas are NW Natural customers, and heating systems and gas appliances are part of the retrofit needs Kijani is assessing at hub sites.

Past participation: Kijani is a first-time applicant and has not previously appeared before the Commission. It has supported advocacy and collaborated with partners on public testimony days, and its members include residents who work with government agencies and civic organizations. Kijani's Steering Committee Chair serves on Multnomah County's Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation (ACSI) alongside Verde staff. Kijani members also took part in the Coalition of Communities of Color community data cohort, aligning community data collection methods with Verde, Community Energy Project and others working on resilience.

Kijani meets the core of the criteria. We know our community, have a holistic method for preparing community members to participate, and are committed to working alongside them and alongside experienced advocates. Kijani will coordinate with Verde, Community Energy Project, Coalition of Communities of Color, Oregon Just Transition Alliance and Community Action Partnership of Oregon so that its participation adds new community voices and does not duplicate existing work.

The Commission's justice funding program exists to bring underrepresented customers into its proceedings. Kijani's contribution is to bring not only our current members with energy to spend on

advocacy, but a steady stream of additional trained and supported community members who can show up, understand what is being decided, and say what it means for their households.

(B) Projected dockets and types of matters

Kijani intends to participate in non-contested dockets and rulemakings that bear on energy affordability, energy burden, customer protections and community participation. Kijani will take part through workshops, written and oral public comment, Commission public meetings, community education sessions, and collaboration with other environmental justice and low-income advocates.

UM 2211: Implementation of HB 2475

Eligibility: UM 2211 is a non-contested docket implementing HB 2475, including utility bill discount programs, arrearage management, energy burden reporting and procedural equity. Every workstream affects low-income customers and environmental justice communities served by the participating utilities. Staff suspended the Phase 3 Differential Rate Design Fact Finding Workstream schedule in August 2026 and will publish an updated schedule. Kijani will participate when the workstream resumes.

Kijani engagement: Kijani will attend workshops, file comments, and bring community members to speak on bill discount enrollment, outreach and how the Commission's own processes can be made easier to enter. Kijani's learning and development experience is most directly useful to the procedural equity workstream.

FAIR Energy Act implementation (UM 2405, AR 676, AR 677, AR 678)

Eligibility: These dockets implement HB 3179, including limits on winter residential rate increases, rate impact analysis and reporting on expected rate changes. They shape what households pay and when.

Kijani engagement: Kijani will support community members in sharing lived experience with bill increases and past-due balances, and will comment on whether required reporting is understandable to the customers it is meant to inform.

AR 671: Customer protections (Division 21)

Eligibility: This rulemaking addresses protections against disconnection, including during extreme weather. Disconnection falls hardest on low-income households.

Kijani engagement: Kijani will participate in workshops and file comments informed by community sessions, if the rulemaking remains open in 2027.

ETO 1: Energy Trust of Oregon multiyear plan

Eligibility: The Energy Trust's budget and planning process is named as an Eligible Proceeding in Section 6.2 of the Agreement.

Kijani engagement: Kijani will monitor reporting and comment on whether energy efficiency programs are reaching the communities it represents.

Utility resource and clean energy plans (LC 80, LC 85, LC 79)

Eligibility: Resource planning sets long-term costs and determines whether communities share in the benefits of the clean energy transition.

Kijani engagement: Kijani will monitor these dockets, join community-facing workshops, and sign on to joint comments with partner advocates where its community's interests align.

Rate cases

Eligibility: General rate cases directly affect residential customers' bills.

Kijani engagement: Kijani will monitor rate case filings and take part in public comment hearings and related environmental justice workshops. Kijani does not plan to intervene as a party in 2027. If that changes, it will seek case-certification under OAR 860-001-0860.

Community education and general PUC planning

Kijani will run at least three community education sessions in 2027 on how the Commission works, how to read a utility bill and rate proposal, and how to give public comment. Kijani will also spend time on training for its own staff, coordination with other advocates, and planning for future participation.

(C) Participating public utility accounts

Kijani requests a total of $51,000 in pre-certification funds from the following accounts:

Account	Amount requested
Portland General Electric	$17,000
PacifiCorp (Pacific Power)	$17,000
NW Natural	$17,000
Total	**$51,000**

The dockets described above apply to all three utilities, and Kijani's community members are customers of each. Pacific Power and Portland General Electric divide electric service across the neighborhoods Kijani serves, and NW Natural serves gas customers in both territories.

Kijani understands that this is a requested budget. If changes are needed to accommodate other organizations seeking funds, Kijani will adjust its work accordingly.

(D) Budget showing estimated eligible expenses

Attachments A and B set out Kijani's estimated fees and costs. The budget funds staff time for participation in the dockets above, community education and preparation for community members' participation, stipends and accessibility support, staff training, and technical assistance as needed. Each category is an Eligible Expense under Section 7.4 of the Agreement.

Attachment A: Kijani proposed budget

Item	Rate	Hours	Cost
Staff			
Sandra Yokley, Project Manager (Policy)	$100	200	$20,000
Kijani working member, Program Design	$85	100	$8,500
Kijani working member, Research and Data Analysis	$85	60	$5,100
Staffing subtotal			$33,600
Contracting			
Technical assistance or legal review, as needed	$200	15	$3,000
Community resources			
Community education sessions (3 sessions)			$3,000
Community member stipends for PUC testimony and comment preparation			$3,600
Accessibility: interpretation, childcare, food, transportation			$2,300
Staff training on PUC process			$1,000
Community resources subtotal			$9,900
Administrative costs (9.7% of direct costs)			$4,500
Total			**$51,000**

Attachment B: Budgeted expenses by utility

Item	PGE	PacifiCorp	NW Natural
Staff	$11,200	$11,200	$11,200
Contracting	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Community resources	$3,300	$3,300	$3,300
Administrative costs	$1,500	$1,500	$1,500
Total	**$17,000**	**$17,000**	**$17,000**

Conclusion and signature

Kijani respectfully requests that the Commission find it an Eligible Recipient and grant its Notice to Request HB 2475 Intervenor Funding Pre-Certification for 2027.

Dated this 10th day of November 2026.

Respectfully submitted

Derron Coles

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Date: 2026-11-10 11:16:01 -0800

Derron Coles

Board Chair, The Kijani Collective