



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181



Mr. Jess Melin
Executive Vice President
BrightNight
515 N Flagler Drive, Suite 250
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Dear Mr. Melin:

On behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, I would like to express my appreciation for BrightNight's collaboration on the proposed land exchange and donation that will expand Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge.

After careful evaluation, the Service determined that the proposed exchange provides a net conservation benefit to the Refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System. By exchanging a small parcel with limited potential for restoration for 11.3 acres of wetland habitat, the Refuge will be better positioned to protect, restore, and manage one of the habitat types identified as a priority in the Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan. The acquisition will increase protected wetland acreage and expand opportunities to restore scrub shrub wetlands that support migratory birds, native fish, amphibians, and other wildlife.

We also appreciate BrightNight's decision to donate the difference in value between the exchanged properties. Your contribution will enable the Service to expand the Refuge's conservation footprint and increase opportunities to restore priority wetland habitat. We appreciate your willingness to work with the Service to achieve an outcome that provides lasting conservation benefits for the Refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System. By bringing this property into Refuge ownership, we will be better positioned to implement future restoration, strengthen habitat connectivity, and further the Service's mission of conserving fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Equally important has been BrightNight's collaborative approach throughout this process. We appreciate your willingness to engage with the Service, consider our recommendations, and incorporate recognized wildlife protection measures into project design, including implementation of Avian Power Line Interaction Committee recommendations intended to reduce potential impacts to migratory birds. Your responsiveness to our concerns and your willingness to incorporate these measures helped achieve an outcome that advances the Refuge's long term conservation objectives while supporting your project planning.

Thank you again for your partnership. We look forward to seeing this property become part of the Refuge and to the restoration opportunities it will provide for years to come.

Sincerely,

Bridget Fahey,
Acting Regional Director

PACIFIC REGION 1

Idaho, Oregon*, Washington,
American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Mariana Islands

*PARTIAL