



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO**

P.O. Box 1507 / 398 Lewis Street / Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147
Tel (970) 264-8300

September 11, 2023

The Honorable Andrew Berke
Administrator
USDA Rural Development
Rural Utilities Service
STOP 1510, Rm 4121-S
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-1510

RE: RUS New ERA-Funded Project Support

Dear Mr. Berke,

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners fully supports La Plata Electric Association's proposed project to install a solar generation facility and upgrade the AMOCO East substation to enable distribution of solar-generated power to our community. This technology can provide significant benefits to the residents and businesses of Archuleta County, particularly in terms of clean energy, reduced dependence on fossil fuels, lower consumption costs, and energy resiliency.

Power outages have serious consequences for rural areas. Unlike larger and more urban communities, many essential services in Archuleta County do not have secondary regional options. Outages can disrupt vital services such as medical care, water supplies, and communication, and can also lead to significant economic losses as well as health and safety concerns. By implementing their solar generation strategy, LPEA is building the foundation for a reliable, sustainable, and resilient clean energy future that will help reduce the likelihood of community-impacting energy events for local and regional homes, businesses, critical facilities, and first responders.

We are fully committed to working with LPEA to ensure that this project is successful and look forward to the improved reliability and cost-effectiveness of our power system. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ronnie Maez - Chairman