

May 06, 2019

To: **Washington State Department of Ecology**

Attn: Robert Koster, Air Quality Program, robert.koster@ecy.wa.gov

From: Guy Bertilson

RE: **SUPPORT OF VANTAGE DATA CENTERS EXPANSION OF ITS DATA CENTER CAMPUS IN QUINCY, WA**

Dear Robert Koster,

I am writing in support of Vantage Data Centers' expansion of its data center campus in Quincy, WA, and Vantage's request to install additional backup diesel generators for use during very infrequent and brief power failures to support the expanded campus' computer servers.

According to Grant County PUD, Quincy has a high level of electrical power redundancy because it is drawing electrical power from two different sets of the transmission lines. In addition to the power redundancy in Quincy, Grant County PUD has some of the lowest rates of power outages and shortest down times in the Pacific Northwest.

Furthermore, the development, expansion and/or construction of data centers such as Vantage Data Centers campus in Quincy, WA provide the following positive benefits to the economy:

- Data Centers contribute millions of dollars of real & personal property tax, payroll tax, and public utility tax, and privilege tax revenues that help to provide funding for schools and other local units of government (City of Quincy, Grant County, Quincy Fire District, Quincy Hospital District, etc.).
- Data centers in rural areas of Washington State create high-paying, long-term family wage jobs which provide economic diversity and stability to rural communities in Washington State. For every 2 people that a data center hires, approximately 5 more people in the local economy go to work.
- The development of data centers in rural areas of Washington has also created hundreds of construction-related jobs which have increased retail sales taxes revenues in our local counties. On average, the construction employment to build one data center is approximately 500 people working nearly 300,000 man-hours. In addition, the total wages paid for the construction of various data centers in Central Washington between 2006 to present has nearly several hundred million dollars.
- The total value of data center investment in rural Washington State since 2006 has been nearly \$5 billion.

In conclusion and for the reasons above, I am writing in support of Vantage Data Centers' request expand its data center campus in Quincy, as it will create new economic development, new jobs, and greatly increase our rural property tax base.

Sincerely,

Guy Bertilson