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October 16, 2018

Washington Department of Ecology
Pacwest Silicon EIS

Dear Madam or Sir:

I am writing in support of developing the Newport silicon smelter. The only reason I support the project is that I put great value in the creation of family-supporting jobs. Even in this time of economic recovery, every good job created, especially in rural areas, is very beneficial. I know how much poverty persists in rural areas. It troubles me to know how many families are barely getting by. I hope the permitting process can take into account how valuable the good jobs at the smelter will be for the working people in the area.

The smelter can be operated with acceptable levels of environmental degradation and risk. Companies go to great lengths to stay in compliance with permits and minimize environmental harm. I am concerned that if the project cannot be permitted, the message is that traditional industrial projects will never be permitted in large parts of rural Washington. This would be hard on many Washington families.

The permitting process should require the use of the best available technology to reduce pollution. I think an industrial operation like the smelter can be operated with modern technology to limit degradation in this rural area. The Department of Ecology must insure that the project has been carefully evaluated to reduce degradation. The permitting process must consider the value of job creation for families in this region of the state.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Robinson