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Washington State Senate
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October 6, 2026

Washington State Department of Ecology
Nuclear Waste Program
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, WA 99354

RE: Support for Hanford Tank Waste Permit Modifications

Dear Washington State Department of Ecology:

I represent communities near the Hanford Site, and support continued progress toward the safe, timely and effective cleanup of Hanford's tank waste.

Our communities have supported the Hanford cleanup mission for decades. We recognize both the complexity of this work and the responsibility shared by federal, state and local leaders to pursue cleanup approaches that protect people and the environment while making meaningful progress on one of the nation's most challenging environmental cleanup projects.

For that reason, I support the proposed permit modifications associated with the U.S. Department of Energy's approach to treating Hanford tank waste using both vitrification and grout.

The start of tank waste treatment through vitrification represents an important milestone for Hanford and our region. At the same time, the volume of waste remaining at the site requires practical, scientifically sound solutions that can safely accelerate cleanup.

For communities that have lived alongside Hanford for generations, progress matters. Every year that waste remains stored in aging underground tanks carries cost, complexity and risk. Cleanup decisions should be driven by protection of human health and the environment, sound science and a clear commitment to completing the mission.

Washington communities share a fundamental objective: safely treating Hanford's waste and moving eligible waste out of Washington when an appropriate disposal pathway is available.

We appreciate Ecology's important regulatory role and its continued partnership in Hanford cleanup. I encourage the department to approve the proposed permit modifications and support a path forward that allows treatment to advance safely, responsibly and without unnecessary delay.

Hanford has reached a pivotal point in its cleanup history. We have an opportunity to build on decades of investment and workforce effort by moving more waste out of tanks, treating it safely and reducing the long-term risk at the site.

As a representative of the communities most directly connected to Hanford, I support that progress.

Sincerely,



Senator Matt Boehnke
8th Legislative District