Bryan Dockter

Dear Washington State Department of Ecology,

I am a Snoqualmie-area resident, and I strongly oppose Jupiter Power's proposed Cascadia Ridge battery energy storage project near our community.

I am also very concerned about Jupiter Power's comments asking Ecology to make BESS permitting faster and more efficient while limiting how much weight is given to environmental impacts that they describe as site-specific.

Those site-specific impacts are exactly what matter to the people who will live near these facilities.

Large-scale battery storage facilities should not be placed near established neighborhoods, parks, wetlands, waterways, schools, or environmentally sensitive land without the strongest possible review and protections.

I urge Ecology to fully study the risks of battery fires and thermal runaway, toxic smoke and gases, contaminated firefighting runoff, groundwater and wetland impacts, emergency evacuation, setbacks from homes and parks, noise, wildlife impacts, steep slopes, seismic hazards, and the ability of local fire departments to safely respond to a major incident.

I also urge Ecology to establish clear statewide standards identifying locations where utility-scale BESS facilities should simply not be allowed.

Jupiter Power argues that many environmental impacts are too dependent on the individual project site to be useful in a statewide PEIS. I believe the opposite is true. Ecology should use this process to identify which site conditions create unacceptable risks and to establish strong protections before projects are permitted.

This PEIS should not become a tool for speeding up BESS development at the expense of the communities being asked to live beside these facilities.

I do not support the Cascadia Ridge project, and I do not believe a utility-scale BESS facility belongs next to the Snoqualmie community.

Please put public safety, environmental protection, and local communities first.

Thank you for considering my comments.