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I support Ecology's study of utility-scale battery energy storage systems. Battery storage is an important part of Washington's energy future because it can store electricity when generation is abundant and provide power when demand is high. This flexibility can help integrate wind and solar energy, improve grid reliability, reduce dependence on fossil-fuel generation, and support a more resilient electric system.

A programmatic review will help the state plan for battery storage consistently and efficiently while providing clear information to communities, utilities, local governments, and project developers. By evaluating battery storage at a statewide level, the Department can identify best practices for siting, construction, operation, emergency preparedness, and decommissioning. This approach can help ensure that future projects are developed responsibly while avoiding unnecessary administrative delays and supporting investments in energy and infrastructure.

Battery energy storage can also provide broad public benefits, including improved energy security, greater grid flexibility, reduced greenhouse-gas emissions, and support for critical facilities during outages or emergencies. I encourage Ecology to move forward with the PEIS and to use it to establish a clear framework that enables the expansion of battery storage across Washington.