



February 2, 2021

Sage Park
Washington Department of Ecology
1250 West Alder Street
Union Gap, WA 98903-0009

Re: Goldendale Energy Storage Project EIS Scoping

Dear Ms. Park,

I am writing on behalf of Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) to express support for the Goldendale Energy Storage Project. The project, which is located within the Columbia Gorge Renewable Energy Zone, is a high-priority project listed in MCEDD's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and our No. 1 priority project in Washington.

The Columbia River Gorge is an important center of renewable energy production and high-tech innovation. With an abundance of wind and solar electricity facilities in the Gorge, storage is becoming increasingly important. It is impossible for our region to meet our clean energy goals if we cannot store renewable energy to use when we need it.

The proposed Goldendale Energy Storage Project is a result of nearly two decades of work by private landowners and the community of Goldendale, WA. It is my understanding there has been a considerable amount of environmental studies, planning, and analysis completed over the last 20+ years to support commercial development on this land.

The proposed closed-loop pumped-storage hydropower facility is a creative reuse of a former brownfield site, transforming the property into a clean energy resource and a flexible water battery. It also helps electric grid managers balance a rapidly changing electricity supply with demand. The Goldendale project is expected to create more than 3,000 family-wage jobs at a time when rural Washington and Oregon desperately need them.

Goldendale Energy Storage Project is the type of project that will help Washington and Oregon reduce our dependence on fossil fuels while creating opportunities for rural communities. We are highly supportive of the project.

Sincerely,

Jessica Metta
Executive Director