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**CERTIFIED ELECTRICAL
WORKERS OF WASHINGTON**
REPRESENTING ELECTRICAL WORKERS STATEWIDE

February 9, 2021

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

RE: Goldendale Energy Storage Project Scoping

Ms. Park,

The Certified Electrical Workers of Washington -IBEW support the Goldendale Energy Storage Project because it is an important element in both Washington and the region's clean energy future while providing quality family wage jobs and rural economic development.

The Goldendale Energy Storage Project supports Washington state's clean energy commitment through the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) with minimal environmental impacts. CETA requires that all electric utilities in Washington state reach 100% clean electricity supply by 2045.

It is impossible for Washington to meet the CETA goals if we can't store renewable energy to use when we need it. This Project will help meet that need.

The Project also helps electric grid managers balance a rapidly changing electricity portfolio with demand. This compared to other clean energy sources like wind and solar that are intermittent in nature - pumped storage enables grid operators to access reliable electricity 24/7. We only have to look down to California's grid emergency and blackouts last year to see the importance of having energy storage available to support other clean energy resources when they go offline.

The Project will create more than 3,000 family wage jobs during its four-year construction period, and another 50 to 70 permanent jobs in an area of the state that desperately needs them. It also infuses \$2 Billion+ dollars into rural Washington benefitting local economies throughout the Gorge and providing Klickitat County with millions in new tax revenue.

The success of the Project is also important to IBEW because it sends a message to other potential investors that carbon-free projects will be permitted and built in Washington.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Matthew Hepner
Executive Director
Certified Electrical Workers of Washington