

Joe Dabulskis
Sherman County Judge
500 Court Street
P.O. Box 365
Moro, OR. 97039

July 12, 2022

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

Re: Draft EIS for the proposed Goldendale Energy Storage Project

Dear Ms. Park,

I am writing in my capacity as the Judge of Sherman County, Oregon regarding the draft EIS for the proposed Goldendale Energy Storage Project (Free Flow Power Project 101, LLC). Sherman County is located across the Columbia River from Goldendale and has benefited greatly from renewable energy development over the past decades. While the draft EIS does not include an economic analysis, the economic impacts and job opportunities the proposed project presents for rural counties in Oregon and Washington are quite significant.

The Goldendale Project would create 3,000 family-wage jobs and will greatly boost the local economies in Klickitat County and across the Columbia River in Sherman County, Oregon. New revenue streams for Klickitat County—\$14 million annually will support schools, health services, roads, emergency services and more. In addition to the economic impact this \$2 billion project will have on our rural communities, it will provide educational opportunities and valuable on-the-job training for workers in the building trades. All this while also serving as a critical piece of infrastructure to combat climate change.

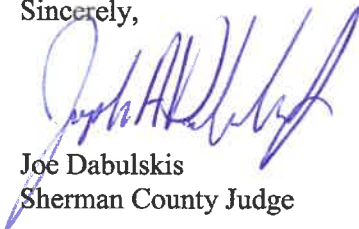
The draft EIS found no significant adverse impacts in almost every single study area. The Applicant has been a ready and willing partner to bring this important project to fruition, doing the necessary studies and presenting mitigation measures necessary to complete the project while having little to no adverse environmental impacts. The draft EIS includes an analysis of the project's impact on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, but should also consider the long-term benefits of turning a brownfield site (the former Columbia Gorge Aluminum Smelter) into a clean energy resource on which our region's

future 100% carbon-free grid will depend.

Future generations will benefit from having this contaminated site transformed into a revenue-generating facility that produces high-quality union jobs, 100% clean energy, and energy storage for the region's wind and solar power. This project would enable our region to rely less on the fossil fuel industry to power our economy, thereby significantly improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions over the 100-year (or more) life of the project. That should be a consideration of decision makers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We are very supportive of the project.

Sincerely,



Joe Dabulskis
Sherman County Judge