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August 9, 2022

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

Re: Goldendale Energy Storage Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Park,

We are writing to express our support for the proposed Goldendale Energy Storage Project. This project would be located in Klickitat County and generate numerous benefits for our residents, economy, environment, and clean energy future.

The Goldendale Energy Storage Project has been a priority project in Klickitat County for many years. It is identified as a catalyst economic development opportunity in the Klickitat Public Economic Development Authority's 10-Year Economic Development Strategic Plan (<http://klickitatcounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/3482/2017-05-22-Klickitat-County-Strategic-Plan-V14-FINAL-PDF>). It is also identified in Mid-Columbia Economic Development District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy as the top priority for the Washington side of the Columbia River Gorge. As a rural county, we are excited by the economic activity this project would generate. Clean energy is a burgeoning industry sector that has and will continue to support critical employment in rural Klickitat County. The Goldendale Energy Storage Project is expected to create more than 3,000 family-wage jobs during construction, including valuable trade apprenticeships that are foundational to successful, lifelong professions. Economic benefits of the project will also extend long-term to all Klickitat County residents, as the annual property taxes from this project will support our schools, roads, and emergency services.

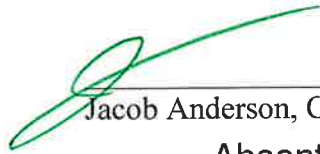
This project is also an opportunity to clean up and redevelop the prior Columbia Gorge Aluminum Smelter Site. Once a prominent provider of local, family-wage jobs, this industrial site has sat unused for too long. The developer is bringing significant outside funding to clean up and responsibly redevelop this site for a new, productive use. Numerous studies have identified this site as being ideal for pumped storage; we are fortunate to have it in our County. The project site's unique geography makes the pumped storage project feasible, and the site's proximity to grid access and existing wind and solar projects makes it cost-effective. This is an opportunity to address relic environmental contamination while investing in a sustainable future.

The Goldendale Energy Storage Project is a critical piece of our collective clean energy future. Klickitat County already produces abundant wind power and we will soon also be generating solar power. We need a safe, reliable way to store these intermittent energy sources so that energy is available to hospitals, homes, schools, and business on demand. The Goldendale Energy Storage Project will serve that need, helping to create a more reliable grid while supporting Washington State's renewable energy policy goals and national energy needs.

Relative to the serious benefits this project will bring to Klickitat County and the renewable energy sector, the adverse environmental impacts (including water quality impacts) identified in the EIS are minor and mitigatable. We resoundingly support this project and look forward to realizing the benefits locally in Klickitat County.

Sincerely,

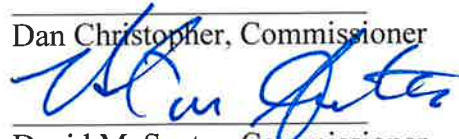
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