



---

# CITY OF GOLDENDALE

---

1103 SOUTH COLUMBUS  
GOLDENDALE, WASHINGTON 98620  
509-773-3771

July 5, 2022

**RECEIVED**

**JUL 25 2022**

**Dept of Ecology  
Central Regional Office**

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

*Re: Goldendale Energy Storage Project*

Dear Ms. Park,

As the City Administrator of Goldendale, I am writing to express the City's support of the proposed Goldendale Energy Storage Project. The City of Goldendale is the closest incorporated community to the proposed project. City leaders have long supported the cleanup and redevelopment of the Columbia Gorge Aluminum Smelter site, which once provided valuable, family-wage jobs for our working families. The Goldendale Energy Storage Project is not only a *good* way to re-use this site—it's the *ideal* way to re-use this site, taking advantage of the geology and geography needed for pumped storage and taking advantage of the grid access and proximity to wind and solar projects to make it cost-effective.

Located in one of the country's best areas for wind energy development, our community recognizes the important role pumped storage stands to play in our renewable energy system. Many days, we produce more wind than the grid can take. We need a safe, reliable way to store that intermittent energy so that our homes, businesses, schools, hospitals and other end users have reliable power when they need it.

With the passing of the Clean Energy Transformation Act, the Goldendale Energy Storage Project demonstrates how partnership between rural and urban communities can help ensure the state meets its policy goals. Numerous studies have concluded that this site is ideal for pumped storage. We are fortunate to have this site in our community

and to have a committed developer willing to responsibly bring a pumped storage project to fruition. If built, the project would ensure jobs and tax revenue associated with meeting the goals of the Clean Energy Transformation Act stay within Washington's rural communities rather than getting exported to other states.

The land use impacts of the project's two 60-acre ponds is quite small compared to other alternatives. The design takes into account several considerations, including impacts to aesthetics, air quality, greenhouse gasses and aquatic species. As the draft EIS has concluded, this project can provide valuable service in an environmentally responsible way.

In addition to the benefits this project will provide for grid reliability—for this community and countless others—the project will bring significant short-term and long-term economic benefits to the City of Goldendale. We understand it will create approximately 3,000 high-quality, family-wage jobs during construction, including apprenticeships in the building trades that can only be provided on long-term construction projects.

The estimated \$14 million in annual property taxes will make a huge difference to our community's working families by supporting our schools, emergency services, parks, and roads. I cannot underscore how profoundly this economic activity will benefit residents in the entire county, which has been hit hard by the pandemic.

We are also encouraged by the developer's commitment to invest \$10 million in the cleanup of the site of the former Columbia Gorge Aluminum Smelter. The Goldendale Energy Storage Project is an example of the kind of creative redevelopment of commercial land that we want to see in our community.

The City has long been and continues to be very supportive of this project.

Sincerely,

  
Michael Canon

Mayor

City of Goldendale

1103 S. Columbus Ave

Goldendale, WA 98620