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I am opposed to the Goldendale Energy Storage Project for several reasons. First, the Yakama Nation is opposing the project due to its location on land that is sacred to the Yakama people. We signed treaties with the Yakama, and for too long projects for "the greater good" - whether westward expansion or the dams destroying the flow of rivers in the Pacific Northwest - have been done in violation of those treaties. The people whose land this was have had their culture threatened, have faced genocide, and have been pawns in numerous land grabs for centuries. This has to stop.

While the old aluminum site would benefit from remediation and new uses, I cannot support a use that is opposed by the Yakama Nation.

Second, there are reasons to believe that the economics of the project itself are untenable, and will likely cost more than they will ever generate in revenue. Construction will also generate greenhouse gases as well, and the additional drain on waters being drawn from the Columbia River, already at risk with rising temperatures and melting snowpack, is significant.

The State of Washington would do better to help consumers invest in rooftop solar and individual batterypacks to eventually eliminate reliance on massive grids that take up inordinate amounts of land and other resources. As for the 2 reservoirs that will be used as "batteries" in this pumped storage project, there are more battery projects that continue to produce batteries with smaller footprints more capable of large storage capacities, along with thermal and pumped hydro that goes underground rather than residing in above ground pools. This project, besides its impact on the Yakama Nation, is relying on old technology that will be outmoded before construction is ever completed. Better to invest in new technologies and, if necessary, slow the transition to entirely renewable fuels rather than destroy the cultural heritage of the Yakama and the Columbia River.