



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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*Pioneering pathways to prosperity.*

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

June 9, 2022

**Re: Goldendale Energy Storage Project**

Dear Ms. Park,

I am writing to show support for the Goldendale Energy Storage Project in Washington State. I recognize the important role the project will play in creating a more resilient electric grid as both Oregon and Washington transition to 100% renewable energy. It's important to have options to efficiently and cost effectively harness the power produced by local wind and solar resources for later use, which the Goldendale Project does.

Wasco County is located just across the Columbia River about 25 miles from the Goldendale Project and will greatly benefit from the economic activity the project will bring. Many of the 3,000 workers who will construct the project over four years will live in Wasco County. They will spend money on housing, groceries, medical care, and other goods and services in our communities, many of which have been negatively impacted by the health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wasco County is also home to Columbia Gorge Community College, which has renewable energy, electrical engineering technology, and electro-mechanical technology programs. As graduates of these programs have benefitted from previous renewable energy development in the Gorge, future graduates will be able to access high-quality local job opportunities offered by the Goldendale Project upon graduating from these programs.

The Goldendale Project is the No. 1 priority Washington project in the Mid-Columbia Development District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy—a strategy that involved numerous stakeholders from the five-county region of the Gorge. As a representative of a County that participates in that process, I am in support of this project.

Sincerely,

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Scott C. Hege, County Commissioner