

Leslie Hiebert

Please see the attached letter.

Thank you, Leslie Hiebert



KVH
Klickitat Valley Health

June 20, 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,

I am writing on behalf of Klickitat Valley Health to express support for the proposed Goldendale Energy Storage Project. We are a nonprofit health care provider, operated by Public Hospital District #1 in Klickitat County and owned by the citizens of the district. Our core values guide our work within the community in Klickitat County, one of which is promoting the responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us, to protect and preserve a healthy future.

The energy we use every day is one of those vital resources and is directly connected to our community's health. Using renewable energy-and having ways to store energy is vital to ensuring that our region remains able to access clean and renewable wind and solar power. We have already been investing our own resources in exploring energy storage for our facilities, and we were one of 14 organizations in disadvantaged communities chosen in the Pacific Northwest National Laboratories Technical Assistance Program to explore energy storage as a pathway to resilience, energy affordability, independence, and environmental sustainability.

There is a growing need for this project-locally and regionally-and the draft EIS seems to conclude that it will have very little adverse impacts that can't be mitigated. The growing number of wind and solar electricity facilities in the Gorge means that energy storage is becoming increasingly important for grid reliability. A stable and reliable grid is critical to our ability to provide health care to the community when and how it is needed. To stabilize the grid and reduce the potential of outages in the future, we know a multiplicity of storage solutions is needed-solutions that include both lithium-ion batteries and the "Energy storage at scale" that pumped storage provides.

Most importantly, the proposed Goldendale Energy Storage Project will bring numerous benefits for the people living right here in Klickitat County. The lower reservoir site includes cleaning up a former brownfield site, removing toxic substances that are known to cause negative health impacts. The Goldendale Project is also expected to create more than 3,000 family-wage jobs in our community at a time when rural Washington and Oregon desperately need them.

The Goldendale Energy Storage Project will benefit residents of Klickitat County and support our health care organization in delivering the care the residents need. For these reasons, we support the project.

Sincerely,



Leslie Hiebert, CEO
Klickitat Valley Health