



Central Washington Resource Energy Collaborative

April 4, 2011

The Honorable Christine Gregoire
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Paula Hammond, Secretary of Transportation
Washington State Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 47300
Olympia, WA 98504-7300

Rogers Weed, Director
Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 42525
Olympia, WA 98504-2525

RE: Electric Vehicle charging stations along Interstate 90

Dear Governor Gregoire, Transportation Secretary Hammond, and Commerce Director Weed,

We are writing in support of the state's efforts to build electric vehicle infrastructure along major interstate highways and to request that the state expand the electric highways project to include I-90. Please consider building charging station infrastructure along this transportation corridor with the other electric highways project investments in calendar year 2011. If the Departments of Transportation and Commerce intend to show meaningful progress towards President Obama's often stated goal of putting 1 million electric vehicles on U.S. roads by 2015, then Kittitas County and Interstate 90 must be prioritized for electric vehicle access.

The Washington State Departments of Transportation (WSDOT) and Commerce electric highways project along I-5 and U.S. 2 will be enhanced by adding electric vehicle charging along I-90. The WSDOT acknowledges this east-west route among the top three priorities for electric charging infrastructure, but has not indicated a project timeline nor dedicated funds for its inclusion. Should funding become available either through the proposed electric vehicle \$100 registration fee or from state or federal grant programs, please make this investment along I-90. For under \$500,000, the state could add four to five charging stations needed to complete a reliable network of level three, "fast chargers," along the North Cascades loop and Highway 2 National Scenic Byway.

Interstate 90 is the state's highest volume east-west highway. There are more than 27,000 daily average vehicles, exceeding 800 million miles travelled annually. Kittitas County is also home to the crossroads of SR 97 and I-82. Electrifying this main transportation region is important to statewide infrastructure and provides value for taxpayers.

The Kittitas valley is home to several forms of low-carbon technology and is contributing to Washington's clean energy economy with a designated Innovation Partnership Zone. More than 300 utility-scale wind turbines operate in Kittitas County and produce enough electricity to support over 25,000 households. Puget Sound Energy's Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility, located near Vantage, has welcomed more than 60,000 visitors to the educational Renewable Energy Center; and, PSE offers five on-site electric vehicle charging stations.

The communities in Kittitas County have distinguished themselves with renewable energy resources. The City of Ellensburg built a Community Renewable Park adjacent to I-90 in 2006 with 36 kilowatts of solar capacity. The Ellensburg Solar Project expanded their solar array in 2008 and is prepared to install a third phase to include residential turbines and focused solar disks. The Renewable Park has generated 218 megawatts and is supported by more than 100 private citizen investors. Ellensburg expects to make seven electric vehicle charging stations available for the 2011 driving season, including one Tesla charging unit donated by vehicle owners.

The Central Washington Resource Energy Collaborative encourages you to use available funding for strategic development of electric vehicle infrastructure. Our region has taken the initiative to collaborate and build a comprehensive approach for being electric vehicle accessible. We look forward to working with the Departments of Transportation and Commerce as a new member of the State Electric Vehicle Taskforce.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Jewell
Kittitas County

Paul Wiegand
Puget Sound Energy

Bob Hansen
Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce

David Steeb
Desert Claim Wind Power LLC

Wayne Quirk
Central Washington University

- c. Keith Phillips, Governor's Office
Teresa Berntsen, Governor's Office