



Central Washington Resource Energy Collaborative

April 20, 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 stations along this transportation corridor with the other electric highways project investments in calendar year 2011. Prioritizing Kittitas County and Interstate 90 for electric vehicle access will show meaningful progress towards President Obama's often stated goal of putting one million electric vehicles on U.S. roads by 2015.

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 grants programs, please make this investment along I-90. For under \$500,000, the state could add four to five

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charging stations needed to complete a reliable network of level three, “fast chargers,” along the North Cascades loop, including the 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. Essential infrastructure needed to expand plug-in electric vehicle access is already positioned to serve this project. Utility transmission lines parallel I-90 and three-phase electrical conduits are near many interchanges. The state’s investment in ‘fast chargers’ will provide customer access points in this transmission network. 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. There are 239 utility-scale wind turbines in Kittitas County producing enough electricity to support over 130,000 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 has made on-site electric vehicle charging available.

Local communities have distinguished themselves with renewable energy resources. The City of Ellensburg built the state’s first Community Solar Project adjacent to I-90 in 2006. The Ellensburg Solar Project is prepared to install a third expansion phase, which will include residential turbines and focused solar disks. This Renewable Park has generated 218 megawatt hours 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 a statewide vehicle owners club.

The Central Washington University is offering Washington’s first Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology degree program to prepare students for a clean energy economy. The campus boasts one LEED Gold certified academic building that offers a plug-in electric vehicle charging stall. An ongoing building renovation project looks to receive LEED Platinum certification with a rooftop solar array laboratory.

Central Washington Resource Energy Collaborative encourages you to use available funding for strategic development of electric vehicle infrastructure. Our region has taken the

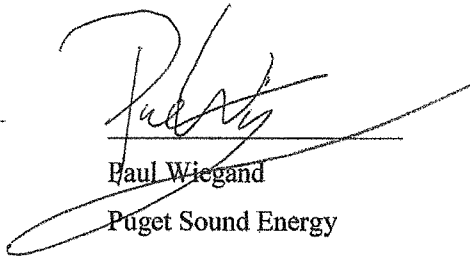
taken the initiative to collaborate and build a comprehensive approach to welcoming electric vehicle owners. Municipalities and private businesses are partnering in a county-wide electric vehicle working group to coordinate and organize Kittitas County's preparedness. This effort has already influenced municipal ordinance processes and began collecting commitments to install more publically available charging units. The county-wide working group intends to coordinate charging station mapping and inventory to relieve travelers of 'charging anxiety' through marketing and public awareness. We look forward to working with the Departments of Transportation and Commerce as a new member of the State Plug-in Electric Vehicle Taskforce.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



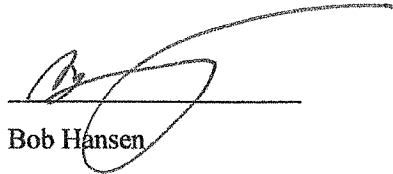
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Bob Hansen
Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce

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