

## AT THE CROSSROADS OF WASHINGTON STATE

Kittitas County Community Services 411 N. Ruby St. Ste 2 Ellensburg, WA 98926

RE: Teanaway Solar Reserve

Dear Mr. Valoff:

On behalf of the Economic Development Group of Kittitas County (EDGKC), I am writing to express the EDGKC's support for the Teanaway Solar Reserve (TSR) project.

The EDGKC has had a history of supporting green energy project not just because of their direct economic benefits but also because of our need for clean energy and the reduction of our dependence on coal and fossil fuels. After reviewing the economic impact analysis for the TSR project and having it independently reviewed, we feel that this project will have a positive impact on the County. This project will provide over 225 short term jobs, during the three year construction and then 35 long term family wage jobs during operation. TSR will also be contributing over \$1.5 million annually in property taxes while requiring very little in services from the County. In addition to the direct economic benefits there are also indirect and induced employment and spending benefits especially during the three year construction phase of the project.

Kittitas County is well-positioned in the State for renewable energy deployment, research and development and the EDGKC's County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy identifies renewable energy as a priority sector. The State recognized this and it is one of the reasons they recently granted Kittitas County the designation of an Innovation Partnership Zone (IPZ) which is focused on renewable energy. Because of all of the enthusiasm generated by our IPZ designation, and our current wind, solar and community energy projects, we are excited about the very real potential for creating a renewable technology corridor which will bring related businesses and private investment to the County and help drive our economy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Cridlebaugh Executive Director