

Jeff Watson

From: Nancy Hirsh <nancy@nwenergy.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2016 10:47 AM
To: Jeff Watson
Cc: Joni Bosh
Subject: Iron Horse Solar Project
Attachments: Iron Horse Letter of Support.pdf

Mr. Watson,

Attached please find a letter supporting the Iron Horse solar project being proposed by OneEnergy Renewables.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 206-621-0094 or via email.

Thanks for your time.

Nancy Hirsh

Nancy Hirsh
Executive Director
NW Energy Coalition
811 1st Ave., Suite 305
Seattle, WA 98104
206-621-0094 (o)
206-409-9217 (c)
www.nwenergy.org

Save the date for the NW Clean & Affordable Energy Conference, November 17-18 in Portland, Oregon!

Advocates for the West
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
AirWorks, Inc.
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
Alliance to Save Energy
Alternative Energy Resources Organization
American Rivers
A World Institute for a Sustainable Humanity
BlueGreen Alliance
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Centerstone
Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon
City of Ashland
City of Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment
Clackamas County Weatherization
Clean Energy Works Oregon
Climate Solutions
Community Action Center
Community Action Partnership Assoc. of Idaho
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
David Suzuki Foundation
Earth and Spirit Council
Earth Ministry
Ecova
eFormative Options
Emerald People's Utility District
EnergySavvy
Energy Trust of Oregon
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HEAT Oregon
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Home Performance Washington
Housing and Comm. Services Agency of Lane Co.
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Idaho Clean Energy Association
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Rivers United
Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
League of Women Voters Idaho
League of Women Voters Oregon
League of Women Voters Washington
Montana Audubon
Montana Environmental Information Center
Montana Renewable Energy Association
Montana River Action
National Center for Appropriate Technology
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Buildings Institute
Northern Plains Resource Council
Northwest Energy Efficiency Council
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Opower
Opportunities Industrialization Center of WA
Opportunity Council
Oregon Energy Coordinators Association
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregonians for Renewable Energy Policy
Pacific Energy Innovation Association
Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters
Portland Energy Conservation Inc.
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Puget Sound Advocates for Retired Action
Puget Sound Cooperative Credit Union
Puget Sound Energy
Renewable Northwest Project
Save Our Wild Salmon
Sea Breeze Power Corp.
Seattle Audubon Society
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Seinergy
Shoreline Community College
Sierra Club
Sierra Club, Idaho Chapter
Sierra Club, Montana Chapter
Sierra Club, Washington Chapter
Smart Grid Northwest
Snake River Alliance
Solar Installers of Washington
Solar Oregon
Solar Washington
South Central Community Action Partnership
Southeast Idaho Community Action Partners
Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners
Student Advocates for Valuing the Environment
Sustainable Connections
The Climate Trust
The Energy Project
The Policy Institute
Trout Unlimited
Union Of Concerned Scientists
United Steelworkers of America, District 12
US Green Building Council, Idaho Chapter
Washington Environmental Council
Washington Local Energy Alliance
Washington State Department of Commerce
Washington State University Energy Program
YMCA Earth Service Corps



NW Energy Coalition
for a clean and affordable energy future

June 6, 2016

Jeff Watson
Planner 2
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 North Ruby St., Suite 4
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Dear Mr. Watson,

I am writing in support of the 6-megawatt Iron Horse solar project proposed for development by OneEnergy Renewables.

Founded in 1981, the NW Energy Coalition and its members advocate for a clean and affordable energy future in the Northwest. Our unique alliance comprises some 100 environmental, civic and human service organizations as well as utilities and clean energy businesses throughout the Pacific Northwest. I am pleased to say that OneEnergy Renewables is a member of the Coalition.

Energy policy is critical to Washington's economic and environmental health. State, county and local policymakers and agencies must work to advance energy efficiency and the siting and use of environmentally responsible new renewable energy projects to meet our power needs. In addition, helping consumers and utilities reduce power-sector pollution and climate-changing emissions is critical to advancing Washington's clean energy economy.

The Coalition firmly believes that renewable energy projects must be responsibly sited and that their developers must pay close attention to environmental sustainability and protection of land and wildlife. Renewable energy projects that damage the environment are not good projects.

However, the Iron Horse solar project appears to have been responsibly sited on previously disturbed land and comes with no known environmental or habitat concerns. OneEnergy's principals have been advancing Northwest clean energy projects for decades. They are

committed to delivering community benefits through cost-effective clean energy projects that support local landowners and businesses.

Projects that bring environmentally responsible economic development to rural areas are win-wins that deserve local and state decision-maker support. We are pleased that Iron Horse will use a tracking system that allows the panels to follow the sun, thus maximizing system output and improving cost effectiveness -- another signal that OneEnergy Renewables is developing a high-quality project that will support the community of Kittitas County as well as Puget Sound Energy customers.

Iron Horse will be Washington's largest solar project. Its approval will set an appropriately high bar for developers of other Washington-sited projects: they will have to ensure their projects also pass the environmental test and bring additional value to the local and state economy.

We urge you to support this permit application. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Hirsh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

Nancy Hirsh
Executive Director