

## Jeff Watson

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**From:** Brian Grunkemeyer <grunk@live.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 06, 2016 1:35 PM  
**To:** Jeff Watson  
**Cc:** doug.howell@sierraclub.org  
**Subject:** Iron Horse solar project & the Sierra Club  
**Attachments:** Sierra Club support letter for Iron Horse solar project.docx

Hello Mr. Watson:

I am the Energy Committee chair for the Washington State chapter of the Sierra Club, the nation's oldest environmental organization representing over 20,000 members in our state. Attached is a letter of support for the Iron Horse solar project. We're excited to hear of this project.

Thanks for your time.



## Northwest Regional Office

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June 6, 2016

Jeff Watson  
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**COMMENT LETTER ON IRON HORSE SOLAR PROJECT**  
Transmitted by email to: [jeff.watson@co.kittitas.wa.us](mailto:jeff.watson@co.kittitas.wa.us)

Dear Mr. Watson:

On behalf of the Washington State chapter of the Sierra Club, I am writing in support of the OneEnergy Renewables Iron Horse solar project in Kittitas County.

Sierra Club strongly supports the development of environmental responsible renewable energy. We have seen no major concerns about the siting of this project. We understand that the designated project land could be brought back into agricultural production after the useful life of this project has been reached. We know of no environmental impacts to water, land or wildlife from this project. We know the project developers have addressed all of the environmental and wildlife protection requirements.

We also know that this project is designed as a demonstration. We do not have any utility-scale solar projects in the State of Washington. We see large-scale solar projects happening around the country and we are excited about the opportunity to prove that such projects – responsibly sited – can provide another venue to diversify our energy portfolio and provide clean, renewable energy.

While we do not know all the details of the financing of this project because this information is proprietary, we hope the design of this project will lead to further and larger utility-scale solar projects. This is exactly the type of demonstration that we need to move the state closer to broader and more diverse renewable energy development.

We are pleased to be supporting this project. Washington State is lagging behind other states in moving forward with solar energy. We need to continue to develop new, creative and responsible projects to maximize the solar energy potential. And we are additionally pleased this project will be providing important economic benefits for the local economy.

Sincerely,

Brian Grunkemeyer  
Chair, Energy Committee  
Washington Chapter of the Sierra Club