



August 7, 2024

Dear EFSEC Committee,

We are writing to express our profound dissatisfaction with the recent decisions made by Governor Inslee regarding the Horse Heaven Wind and Solar Farm project. The actions taken by the Governor have not only disregarded the well-considered recommendations of the EFSEC but have also undermined the trust and interests of the Washington state residents.

On May 29, 2024, EFSEC prudently recommended approving a reduced version of the Horse Heaven Wind and Solar Project, which included significant measures to mitigate the impact on visual aesthetics, Yakama Nation cultural sites, aerial firefighting capabilities, and the habitat of the historic Ferruginous Hawk. This recommendation came after three years of thorough analysis, public and adjudicative hearings, and the investment of considerable taxpayer dollars.

For the first time in EFSEC's 54-year history, a Washington governor has summarily rejected such a recommendation. Governor Inslee's directive to restore the project to near its original size has resulted in the following consequences:

- **Wasted Resources:** Three years of meticulous analysis and the financial contributions of taxpayers have been effectively disregarded.
- **Safety and Health Risks:** By dismissing the reduced use of aerial firefighting and other safety measures, the Governor has increased the potential for adverse health and property risks.
- **Misplaced Priorities:** The Governor has favored the Applicant's interests over those of the constituents he has pledged to serve.
- **SEPA Process Trivialized:** The systematic environmental assessment process has been rejected.
- **Disregarded Interests:** The environmental concerns, the voices of the Native American community, Benton County, and Tri-City residents have been overlooked.
- **Power Commitment Issues:** The Applicant's refusal to commit the generated power to Washington state has been ignored.

The Governor's decision to remand the project back to the Council for reconsideration on May 25, 2024 sets a dangerous precedent for future projects and the integrity of the EFSEC's role in safeguarding the interests of our state and its residents.

We urge the EFSEC to take a firm stand against this decision and to advocate for the original recommendations that were made with the best interests of Washington's people and environment in mind. The credibility of the EFSEC and the democratic process it represents must be upheld.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that the EFSEC will continue to work towards the best possible outcomes for all stakeholders involved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Mattson".

Lori Mattson, IOM
President & CEO

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