



Association  
of Washington  
Business

Washington State's Chamber of Commerce

DON C. BRUNELL  
*President*

January 11, 2010

Mr. J.V. Parrish  
Chief Executive Officer  
Energy Northwest  
PO Box 968, Mail Drop 1023  
Richland, WA 99352-0968

Dear Vic:

On behalf of the Association of Washington Business (AWB) and our 6,900 members, I am writing to support the 20-year license extension for Columbia Generating Station.

The Association of Washington Business is Washington's oldest and largest business association. AWB is the state's chamber of commerce and manufacturing and technology association. Our members range in size from Boeing, Microsoft, Wafertech, and Costco to very small businesses----all of how rely upon low cost, reliable electricity to thrive and maintain our competitiveness.

This nuclear power plant has been supplying affordable, safe, reliable and greenhouse gas free electricity to more than one million homes for over 25 years. Its contribution to the Pacific Northwest power grid is vital in a day when the hydroelectric capacity of the Columbia and Snake rivers system is diminishing, more wind production facilities are facing regulatory and legal challenges, and there is added pressure to replace carbon-based fuels with non-greenhouse gas emission generating sources.

The pressure on the power demand side is equally challenging as our populations grows and our citizens consume greater amounts of electricity per household from appliances, computers, internet connections to large-load server farms and flat-screen televisions.

Renewal of Columbia's operating license is key to meeting our region's electricity needs. In this age of concern about climate change, it is important to again note that Columbia's power produces no carbon emissions. It is a consistent power source which does not

ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON BUSINESS  
*Membership Government Affairs Member Services AWB Institute*

T 360.943.1600    ✉ PO Box 658, Olympia, WA 98507-0658  
T 800.521.9325    🏠 1414 Cherry St. SE, Olympia  
F 360.943.5811    [www.awb.org](http://www.awb.org)

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rely upon wind or sun to generate electricity and, as a base-load power production facility, it operates day and night, whatever the season, to provide a consistent supply of quality electricity---an important ingredient especially for the semi-conductor manufacturing process.


Whereas wind and solar production facilities have large land footprints, Columbia Generating Station provides low cost electrical power to help keep our region economically vibrant and competitive on a land mass of approximately 1,000 acres.

Finally, the financial impact of the Columbia Generating Station is significant. Energy Northwest paid approximately \$3.56 million in "privilege" tax of which \$3.49 million was from the Columbia Generating Station. The facility employs nearly 1,000 workers in family-wage and good benefit positions with an annual payroll of nearly \$69 million. The impact of the family-wage jobs at the plant, in addition to the taxes paid, are a huge advantage to the economy of our state, particularly south central Washington.

Continued operation of Columbia Generating Station is a win-win for all of us. It is our hope that Energy Northwest can continue to operate this critical facility under an extended operating license.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don C. Brunell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Don" being the most prominent.

Don C. Brunell  
President