



January 25, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Parrish,

The Port of Benton is pleased to express our support of Energy Northwest's license renewal for Columbia Generating Station nuclear power plant, extending its operating license through 2043.

More than 40 percent of the states power is produced within a 100-mile radius of the Tri-Cities region. Columbia Generating Station produces a large portion of that electricity -- enough to power one million Washington homes.

Columbia has been a valuable part of our community for more than 25 years. The plant's operation provides full-time, family wage jobs to nearly 1,100 professionals. These workers, in turn, generate significant economic activity throughout our state. Additionally, payments of valuable tax revenues to the state and municipal governments support our schools, fire departments, library districts and other important local services.

We also recognize that nuclear power produces zero greenhouse gas emissions. This environmentally responsible, reliable and low-cost source of base load power must remain part of our region's diversified energy portfolio.

We fully support Columbia receiving a 20-year license renewal from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Keller", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Scott D. Keller
Executive Director

C: Port Commission & Counsel