



Washington State Senate

Senator Phil Rockefeller
23rd Legislative District

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Sid Morrison, Chairman, Executive Board
Judy Ridge, President, Board of Directors
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968, Mail Drop 1023
Richland, WA 99352-0968

Dear Mr. Morrison and Ms. Ridge:

I want to add my voice to those strongly supporting relicensing of Columbia Generating Station (CGS) as an essential asset in Washington's energy resources. Since the nuclear plant received its original 40-year license in 1983, it has demonstrated its value as an important source of energy free of greenhouse gas emissions. I view Energy Northwest's planned request to renew the license for another 20 years as an essential step in extending upon that value, which is likely to grow as the demand for carbon-free power increases.

CGS provides some of the region's most cost-effective carbon-free power, making it essential to state, regional, and national goals of reducing carbon emissions that contribute to climate change. The Bonneville Power Administration estimated that replacing CGS power with market purchases generated by fossil fuels would increase the carbon emissions of the Federal Columbia River Power System by about 3.7 million metric tons a year. We must retain this power source not only to avoid such emissions, but also because of its vital contribution to a reliable, stable regional power system. The firm power from CGS complements more variable, renewable hydroelectric power.

Energy Northwest's efforts to improve plant performance over the coming years will further support its relicensing application, which I strongly endorse. CGS is a valuable resource, and will only become more so.

Sincerely,

Senator Phil Rockefeller
Chair, Senate Committee on Environment, Water, & Energy

cc: Keith Phillips, Executive Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor