



Association
of Washington
Business

Washington State's Chamber of Commerce

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April 13, 2015

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The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor, State of Washington
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Dear Gov. Inslee:

Washington's economy and business climate are under constant scrutiny.

Outside the state and in the central Puget Sound region, there has been a lot of media coverage touting growing strength in key sectors of our economy. While the majority of the economic advance has been focused on Seattle and King County, other parts of the state have also seen some positive growth.

This is good news locally and sends a positive message to businesses looking to bring even more activity and opportunity here.

But there are many areas of Washington where the local economy has either just barely returned to or has not yet reached the level it was prior to the Great Recession. That's why our state cannot afford to ignore major opportunities for job growth and economic vitality, especially beyond the Puget Sound corridor.

One obstacle to job growth that has been brought to my attention is the cumbersome process being employed by the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) on the proposed Vancouver Energy project. A process that is supposed to take a year looks like it will take three times that to complete.

Business needs certainty. A government regulatory process should be geared toward creating results by processing permits efficiently and making timely decisions in order to foster job growth and improve the economy.

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It is very difficult as a state to attract new businesses, or convince existing employers to expand and enhance operations, if government doesn't make statutorily-mandated permitting decisions in a timely manner.

Appropriate regulation, protection of the environment and the assurance of public safety are all very important. So too are the rule of law and making decisions in a timely manner so that those businesses and individuals who want to invest in our state can make prudent business decisions. We don't need to sacrifice one for the other. State government can operate more efficiently without sacrificing our quality of life or the numerous other attributes that make Washington such a great place to live.

Governor Inslee, we urge you to push the members of EFSEC and staff to develop a timely schedule to complete review of the Vancouver Energy project and ensure there will be no further delays.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kris Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kris Johnson
President & CEO

Cc: William H. Lynch, EFSEC