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6 BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
7 ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

8 In the Matter of Application No. 2009-01:
9 WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY LLC;
10 WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY PROJECT
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SKAMANIA COUNTY AND
Klickitat County Public
Economic Development
Authority's Joint Opening
Statement

14 Skamania County and Klickitat County Public Economic Development Council support
15 the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. Proposed for location 30-miles from any other wind
16 project, Whistling Ridge would be Skamania County's first commercial-scale wind development.
17 Whistling Ridge would provide a clean-home grown source of power and desperately needed
18 economic development in a County hit not only by the ongoing recession, but the pull-out of
19 traditional resource dependent industries. The two counties request its approval.

20 Skamania County is unique in all of Washington. The County is about a million acres,
21 85% of which is National Forest. In addition, 80,000 acres are located within the Columbia
22 River Gorge Scenic Area; 60,000 acres are State Forest Trust land; and 40,000 acres are private
23 commercial forest land. That leaves three percent of the County available to residential,
24 industrial and commercial uses. With so much land is taken out of development, revenue to the
25 County is limited, as are jobs: the County's unemployment rate is 12.9%.

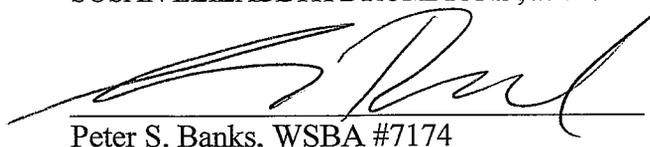
1 The County has relied on federal life-support to sustain itself. However, this revenue will
2 soon end. As a consequence, the County has worked to support alternative industries. Wind
3 development holds particular promise, due to both its economic benefits and positive
4 environmental and social impacts. Except for solar, and reducing demand by investing in
5 efficiency, wind's clean energy has significantly less environmental impacts than virtually any
6 other energy source. There are some habitat impacts, and while many find the turbine's clean
7 lines beautiful, not all do. However, in a County with development constraints on 97% of its
8 land base, that factor alone likely provides more mitigation than any other site within the state.
9 And, Whistling Ridge has been pulled – in its entirety – from the Columbia River Gorge Scenic
10 Area.

11 This project matters to the two counties. Indeed, it matters to Washington and the nation.
12 If we cannot site clean energy projects, a key part of tomorrow's economy, others will. As a
13 county, and as a nation, we either invest in the future or become entrenched in the traditional
14 battle lines of the environment versus development. If the two cannot be reconciled, we protect
15 neither. Instead, we rely on energy from outside the state and nation, which is not as clean as
16 wind. Whistling Ridge protects both the environment and the economy. The two counties
17 request that the Council recommend approval of the Whistling Ridge Energy Project.

18 DATED this 29th day of December, 2010.

19 PETER S. BANKS
20 Prosecuting Attorney for Skamania County

21 LAW OFFICES OF
22 SUSAN ELIZABETH DRUMMOND, PLLC

23 

24 Peter S. Banks, WSBA #7174
25 Susan Drummond, WSBA #30689

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PROJECT)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Susan Drummond, certify that on December 29, 2010, I served the following document to all parties, consistent with the attached, official service list. Those requesting mailed service were served by U.S. mail, postage pre-paid. All others were served by electronic mail.

Skamania County and Klickitat County Public Economic Development Authority's
Joint Opening Statement

Dated at Seattle, Washington this 29th day of December, 2010.



Skamania County Special Deputy Prosecutor
Susan Elizabeth Drummond, WSBA #30689
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Service List

Whistling Ridge Energy Project Application No. 2009-01

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¹ Ms. Bryan Miller has returned to represent Skamania County Economic Development Council

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² Mr. Anderson also represents Skamania County Economic Development Council

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